

HARRIETSHAM TIMES

News from December 1914

Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association

Mrs. Finnis is pleased to report that since 12th August that 634 garments and 65 blankets have been sent to Hayle Place VAD Hospital, Maidstone and 20 shirts plus 40 pairs of socks to the recruits who have enlisted in the village, and the association has almost another 100 garments to be sent in by the end of this month. Even the children at the school have made articles, mufflers and cuffs which have been sent to the Gordon Highlanders at the front, which was the regiment of the late Major Buckingham, Lord of the Manor and one of the School Managers.

Sad News from the 2nd Batt. RWK in India

We offer our most sincere sympathies to Mr. and Mrs. Field, publicans in the Bank House, West Street on the death of their only son, Herbert Frank Field. Private H. Field served with the 2nd Battalion of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment but died on 24th November 1914 at Mooltan, India when he contracted Nephritis. He passed peacefully away in a few days just prior to his regiment being ordered to the front. Herbert was 26 years old and all who knew him grieve that such a promising career has been cut short.

In other news, Sergeant Turner has been taken prisoner (wounded) and Henry Lamb has been wounded and been in hospital. The following Harrietsham residents have now enlisted in the Army.

W. G. Belson (Royal West Kent), George Brandrick (Army Service Corps), A.W. Brunger (Royal West Kent), T. Chantler (4th Batt. Royal Fusiliers) G.S.Day (Remount Dept.), Albert Filmer (Army Service Corps), H. Hughes (Royal West Kent), W.T.Hopkins (Queens Royal West Surrey), H. Seal (Royal Engineers), Sydney Smith (Royal West Kent). Colonel H. Finnis has been accepted for the Royal Engineers, Ulster Division.

We are glad to hear good news of Corporal J. A. M. Heyes, who is in the thick of the fighting at Mons, and has been at the front ever since.

Lantern Lecture

Mr. Hunt, from the Maritime League, gave an interesting lecture, illustrated with lantern slides in connection with the war. The School Hall was crowded to overflowing. He commenced by throwing several portraits on the screen, beginning with that of our beloved King which was the signal for an outburst of applause and the singing of the National Anthem.

There followed the portraits of the Czar of Russia, the King of Belgium, the French President and others. Then there were various pictures of ruined homes, villages and churches, where the march of the Germans had devastated the country.

Mention was made of a proposal that all able bodied men in the Parish, who for one reason or another were unable to enlist in the army, should be drilled and trained to defend their home in case of the enemy effecting a landing on these shores. It was agreed a future meeting will be held.