

HARRIETSHAM TIMES

News from January 1916

Harrietsham Victory at Kent Fencibles Shoot

No. 11 Platoon, Harrietsham, Mid Kent Battalion entertained No. 9 Platoon, Maidstone to tea and a shooting match on Saturday 22nd January. The rendezvous was at Lenham, at the Dog and Bear Hotel, an inviting repast was provided by Mr. J. T. Hatch for the members of both teams. The Chaplain to the Harrietsham contingent, the Rev. H. de V. Watson, presided in the absence through indisposition of Mr Hatch.

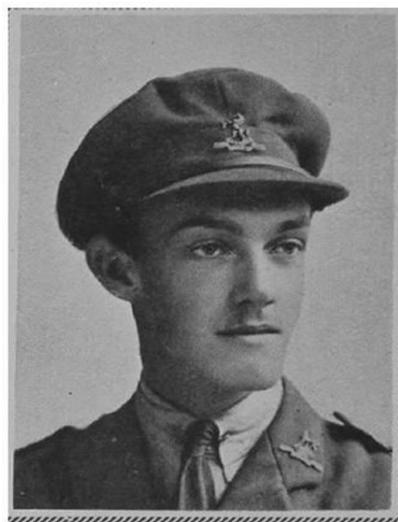
Following tea the company fell in and marched off to Mr. Hatch's private range, the Lenham Drill Hall, where everything was ready for the shoot. The teams of eight aside and parties of three fired from each side alternately. There was two competitions, firstly "Deliberate Firing", with marks out of 100 and then "Rapid Firing" which is firing 10 shots in 10 seconds.

Harrietsham scores were as follows:-

| | Del. | Rap. | Total |
|--------------|------|------|-------|
| I.W. Ivens | 91 | 82 | 173 |
| G.W. Bensted | 88 | 76 | 166 |
| W. Crump | 82 | 82 | 164 |
| F. Barnes | 70 | 88 | 158 |
| E.J. Miller | 64 | 61 | 125 |
| E. Ayling | 90 | 69 | 159 |
| A. Coutts | 56 | 83 | 139 |
| A. Jarrett | 68 | 75 | 143 |
| Total | 609 | 618 | 1227 |

Harrietsham won by 98 points but to be fair to Maidstone they were firing at a considerable disadvantage. Not only they were firing at a new length range, but they were using a different type of rifle from that to which they were accustomed.

Shooting over, the parties accepted the invitation of Mr. Hatch to visit him in his billiard room. After thanking Maidstone for having honoured them with a visit, Mr. Hatch replied that he hoped the visit would prove an incentive to others to follow their example. The Harrietsham and Maidstone Companies then fell in and under Co.-Sergt. Grant and Sergt.-Major Streeter, swung off at a quick march for the station having spent a thoroughly enjoyable time.



Capt. J. B. Matthews

Mr. and Mrs Matthews has received notice that their son has been slightly wounded having been on the front line for the last eight months. Fortunately it is only a slight wound and he is remaining at the front serving his regiment.