

HARRIETSHAM TIMES

News from November 1916

R.F.C. at Stede Court

The Royal Flying Corps have moved the headquarters of 50 Squadron into Stede Court. Under the leadership of Major Malcolm Grahame Christie MC, it was originally commanded from Dover but moved into Stede Court on the 1st November with flights based at airfields in Detling, Throwley and Bekesbourne. Besides a fleet of B.E.2s and B.E.12s, 50 Squadron also boasts 6 six fully equipped night flying aeroplanes for Zeppelin work, these machines are painted black all over, partly for the sake of invisibility but mainly to prevent the pilot becoming blinded by the glare of his wing tip flares which he ignites when close to the ground to facilitate landing.

Major Christie has recently been awarded the Military Cross for services with No.12 Squadron. Also at Stede Court, 78 Squadron has been formed for home defence and tasked with protecting the southern English Coast. Major Hesperus Andrias van Ryneveld, but known as Pierre, has been promoted to the squadron commanding officer. The stationing of the RFC at Stede Court is good news for Harrietsham with all the extra trade it will bring to our local businesses. Mr. Charles Friend, Bootmaker in West Street, has been appointed the official boot repairer for the squadron.

War Work Party

The working party will re-open for winter on Tuesday 7th November at 2 o'clock at Woodlands. It is hoped that it may be held fortnightly, and that more will avail

themselves of this way of "doing their bit" either at home or at the working party, and also that small subscriptions may be forthcoming towards the materials used. Harrietsham has sent so many of its menfolk to the war that it seems probable a small reminder is all that is necessary to produce the necessary assistance.



Harold Tupper Improving

The many friends of Second Lieutenant Harold Tupper will be pleased to hear there is a prospect of his recovery. Dangerously wounded with gunshot through the head on 4th August at Bazentin Le Petit, France, he has had several operations at the hospital, Stoodley Knowle, Torquay, at which point the doctors despaired of him.

He has rallied, however and although a minor operation has followed, he seems to be making satisfactory progress. Highly popular at Maidstone Grammar School, where he was captain of both the cricket and football teams and played for Maidstone Club and the Banks. His old colleagues will be happy to hear of his restoration to health.