

HARRIETSHAM TIMES

News from October 1915



Walter William Norris Killed in Action

William and Rose Norris, of Forge Meadow, have heard from the War Office that their son, Pte. Walter Norris, G/497, of the 6th Battalion Royal West Kent Regt., was killed in action on 14th October in France. He was killed on the great advance on Loos. A large shell exploded in the trench killing him instantaneously. He was among 350 other casualties suffered that day.

Walter, who was 18, joined the Army on 31st August 1914 along with George and Fred Parks and Harold Payne. They had been in France since 1st June. Prior to joining up, Walter was employed at Parkwood House as a gardener. Mr and Mrs Norris have received condolence letters from both Fred Parks and Harold Payne reminding them "He died fighting for his King and country, when there are others who still fail to come."

Harrietsham Fencibles

The Harrietsham section of the Kent Volunteer Force was visited on Wednesday 13th October by the Company Commander, Mr. Gerald Mercer. The meeting was held in the school, where Mr. Mercer gave a most interesting and instructive lecture on trench digging. Before commencing, he complimented the members of the Section who were at the Knockholt trenches the previous weekend on the excellent way in which they had done their work. Before the Section was dismissed, Mr. J. T. Hatch, Commandant, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Mercer, which was carried with acclamation.

Lighting Order

The following notice has been issued by the Chief Constable of Kent to the Clergy:- "It is necessary for the Regulations to be carefully carried out and all windows, other than those heavily stained must be screened during any service held after lighting-up time." It is with much regret that we cannot use the Parish Church on Sunday evenings, but evensong will now be held in the Mission Church.

Our Soldiers and Sailors

The number of those connected with the Parish at the front is now 32. Those recently gone abroad are Leslie Ambrose, William Hopkins and Cloudesley Marsham. J.W.Baker has joined the West Riding Royal Engineers and is at Southhall, under Col. Campbell.