

HARRIETSHAM TIMES

News from October 1916

Shortages Bite as War enters 3rd Year

As the war now enters the 3rd year the residents of Harrietsham are starting to feel the effects the war is having on daily life. Bread is now 10d in most shops across Kent. There have been isolated reports from major towns about random riots where bread shops have been the main target. Bakers have blamed the increased cost on the price of flour. Bread now has to be sold by weight and not per loaf and it is now illegal to sell bread to a customer until at least 12 hours after it has been baked. The Government believe this measure will save bread as fresh baked bread is difficult to cut thinly.

White bread has now been changed to "War Bread" which uses a mix of flour that contains more of the wholemeal grain which is usually discarded.

Due to the army enlisting experienced miners for the war effort at the front, this has resulted in a shortage of labour at the mines. The government have declared that as from October 1916, Coal is now to be rationed by the number of rooms a family have in their house.

Lighting Regulations

Steps have been taken to screen the light in the Parish Church sufficiently; it is hoped, to comply with the lighting regulations, so that we shall continue to have our evening services there for the present. During the worst part of the winter it may very probably be more

convenient to the congregation to hold services in the Mission Church.

G. Murfit - Suffolk Regt.

Residents will be pleased to know that the report in the Kent Messenger dated 2nd September 1916 that C.S.M. George Murfit, serial number 4107, had been killed is wrong. Mrs May Murfit had received notice from the War Office that her husband had been killed in action but shortly after the official notice she received a post card from him, saying that he was a prisoner at Dülmen, in Westfalia, wounded but doing well.

Men's Service

The Men's Service held on 15th October was very well attended with more than 80 present, though they did not all belong to our Parish, for our platoon of the V.T.C., which includes several men from other villages, was joined in a Church Parade by a platoon of the Royal Engineers stationed at the factory at Lenham Station.

