

# HARRIETSHAM TIMES

News from September 1916

**Arthur  
Edmund  
Fermor**



## Missing at the Somme

Laura and William Coleman Fermor of West Street have been informed that their son, Private Arthur Fermor, aged 26, of the West Kent Yeomanry, is reported missing after the Germans attacked along the trench system at Delville Wood, France. Arthur had originally joined the Yeomanry at Maidstone but after action in Gallipoli the unit was disbanded.

The draft of 560 men was sent to various other regiments. Arthur, together with a large proportion of other Yeomanry ended up in the 13<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Regiment, but the Yeomanry men refused to change their uniforms or insignia.

## Walton James Shoebridge

James and Eliza Shoebridge, West Street, have also received news that their son, Walton, has been killed on the 7<sup>th</sup> September near Falfemont Farm, Corbie, France. Walton was serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Cheshire Regiment, service number 28458, and had been in France since the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1915. He had married Elizabeth Hughes in 1912 and had two sons, Hugh who is 2 years old and John, who was only born on the 31<sup>st</sup> August, 8 days before Walton was killed.

## Failing to Register

Robert Johnson was charged at Bearsted Police Court with failing to register himself under the National Registration act. P. C. Tuff deposed that on the day in question he visited the gardens at Hautville and there saw the defendant who failed to produce a registration card. Asked why he had not registered he said "I consider myself an Irishman, and didn't think it applied to me, as it is not in force in Ireland." The defendant said he arrived in England on 1<sup>st</sup> June and was aware of the Act being in force here. Supt. Mepsted stated that Mr Johnson was born at Tiverton, Devon on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1878 and his mother was an Englishwoman and he went to Ireland as a child.

Mr Brennan who defended, quoted that the Constable has already admitted that Mr Johnson being employed as head gardener to Mr. Embericos it was not easy for him to run away. The Defendant has since got registered by the time he received the summons and that Johnson's father was an Irishman. Giving evidence, the defendant said he came over from Ireland in answer to an advertisement to take the place of Mr. Baxter, Mr. Embericos' head gardener, who had gone on military service. He was a loyal Irishman, and had 3 brothers serving. Although he knew the Registration Act was in force he was not aware of the contents of the Act, which he thought did not apply to Irishmen. Mr. Brennan reminded the Court that this was not a Tribunal but a Court of justice and that we have it on oath that the defendant is not an English subject. The Bench took a lenient view letting Mr. Johnson off on paying costs of 4s.