

Lynsted Times

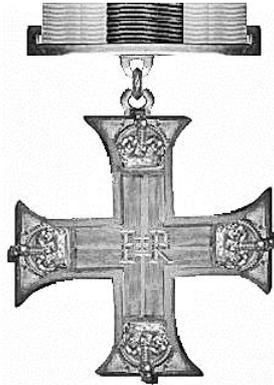
Saturday 10th November 2018

CRISIS & RESOLUTION - 1918



DRIVER CHARLES BARRETT OF TEYNHAM STREET - MILITARY MEDAL

The East Kent Gazette of 13th April 1918 reported - TEYNHAM MAN WINS MILITARY MEDAL - Driver Charles Barrett, of the Army Service Corps, who in peace time was employed by Mr. W. Roper Dixon, has been awarded the Military Medal. Mrs Barrett, the wife, who lives at Teynham Street, has just received information of the fact from the Commanding Officer of Driver Barrett's Company, in which the officer says:- "Barrett is one of my very best men." He adds that the medal was granted for gallantry and devotion to duty. On one occasion he continued to take his waggon up to the line in very heavy shell fire, quite regardless of his own personal safety, and by this means a part of the line was kept supplied. The officer adds:- "We are very fond of him and we hope that he will live to meet you again after the war, and that you may have many happy years together." Driver Barrett has been serving in France for two years and three months. He is a son of Mrs. Nash of Bapchild, by her first marriage.



M.C. FOR YOUNG TEYNHAM OFFICER. Captain R.L. Whittle, Queen's Westminster Regiment, the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Whittle, of Teynham, has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry on the battlefield. *The Faversham and North East Kent News* - 11th May 1918

MILITARY CROSS FOR T.J. SEWELL

LOCAL WAR ITEMS - Some time back we recorded the award of the Military Cross to 2nd Lieut (Acting Captain) T.J. Sewell, RGA, SR, son of the Rev. T J Sewell, Vicar of Lynsted. The circumstances under which the award was made have just been published.

The official note states:- During an enemy attack he fought his section nearly all day under a heavy bombardment, and until he was subjected to severe machine gun fire from the flank and rear, and had suffered heavy casualties. He then destroyed his guns only abandoning the attempt to salve in consequence of the loss of so many horses. His cool and intrepid behaviour throughout was up to the best traditions of the regiment. Captain Sewell was mentioned in despatches in May. *Faversham*

and North East Kent News -
17th August 1918.

DCM FOR LYNSTED MAN - ERNEST GEORGE SEAGERS

For meritorious work under heavy shell fire in Mesopotamia the Distinguished Conduct Medal has been awarded Ernest George Seagers, sick berth steward, Royal Navy, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs Seagers, of Lynsted. *The Faversham and North East Kent News* - 21st September 1918

TEYNHAM MAN IS PRISONER OF WAR

Reported on 5th January 1918 - "A little while back we mentioned that Flight Sub-Lieut. V.G. Austen, R.N.A.S. (son of Mr. and Mrs. George Austen, of Teynham), was a prisoner of war in Germany (he had previously been reported missing). It seems that since last July, when he was captured, he has been in hospital at Cassel. He is now sufficiently recovered to be transferred to an officers' camp at Halzminden. It appears he had a miraculous escape from death. He was over the German lines in his aeroplane during a terrific thunderstorm, and mainly owing to these conditions his machine was brought down by anti-aircraft guns, in flames and out of control. The machine dropped some 4,000 feet and Flight Sub-Lieut. Austen sustained severe burns, and concussion. He is only 18 years of age, but a most capable and dauntless pilot.

LOCAL NEWS

LYNSTED HEAD MASTER'S SON PROMOTED TO MAJOR

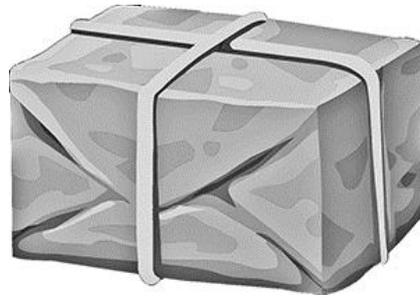
Mr Sydney Lorden Ackerman, a son of Mr T.L. Ackerman, headmaster of Lynsted Council School, has attained the rank of Major. *The Faversham and North East Kent News - 11th May 1918*

LYNSTED MAN THOUGHT DEAD IS ALIVE IN HOSPITAL

Sergeant A E Larkins, another Lynsted man, who is now in hospital at Manchester had a remarkable escape from death. After the attack on the Hindenburg switch line on August 31st he was reported "missing, believed killed." It appears he was blown up and badly gassed. But owing to the good work of the RAMC he was picked up and taken down to the dressing station, and a few days since he was brought over to England. *Faversham and North East Kent News - 21st September 1918*

LYNSTED MAN'S MARVELOUS ESCAPE.

Sergeant A.E. Larkins, of *Bogle, Lynsted*, has had a marvellous escape from death. After the attack on the Hindenburg Switch line, on August 31st, he was reported "missing believed killed". It transpired that he was blown up and badly gassed. But owing to the good work of the R.A.M.C. he was picked up and taken down to the dressing station, and since then he has been conveyed to England. The gallant sergeant is now in the 2nd Western General Hospital Manchester, where his Lynsted friends will be glad to learn that he is doing as well as can be expected. *East Kent Gazette of 14th September 1918*



TEYNHAM AND LYNSTED MEN IN THE FORCES. HOW THEIR CHRISTMAS GIFTS WERE APPRECIATED.

Letters and postcards from Teynham and Lynsted men serving in His Majesty's Forces, are being received every post by Mr R G Eacott, of *Greenstreet*, in acknowledgement of the Christmas gifts of cigarettes which were subscribed for the parishioners. The communications all testify how very much the men appreciated this little remembrance from friends at home.

The dispatch of the parcels, which was very kindly undertaken by Mr Eacott and carried out by him with the help of Mrs. Eacott and his assistant, was a pretty big task, the total number sent being 334. The amount expended was £23 8s 4d.

Men serving in the Army abroad each received fifty cigarettes (duty free), while the men in the Navy and those serving at home each received twenty. The difference in the case of the naval men was due to the fact that not less than 200 could be sent duty free, and consequently the number had to be reduced in order to keep the expenditure within the amount subscribed. As it was it was slightly exceeded.

In each parcel was enclosed a card with Christmas and New Year greetings from the people of Lynsted and Teynham.

We give below a few extracts from the letters and cards received:-
Captain T J Elliott Sewell, R.G.A. (B.E.F.), wrote: "I wish that I could send through you to the kind people of Lynsted and Teynham some expression of thanks for their

message of goodwill and token of remembrance. I should like to tell them all how much I appreciate their kindness, as no doubt do all my comrades from the two parishes. If you could see me at the present moment I expect you would think me a most undeserving object. I am sitting in a very comfortable old cellar in front of a fine fire in a big open fireplace that we built to-day, and the cellar is lighted excellently with electric light, which was put in for us yesterday. I need hardly say that these are not the usual conditions under which we live, and we dare not hope to enjoy such luxury for very long, though at present the battery is in action sufficiently close for it to be well worth our while to come here for such periods as we have off duty. There is plenty of water in the neighbourhood, but we do not desire to have the water laid on here; we have made up our minds to endure the hardship of doing without that convenience I had better end this letter now, or perhaps people will be driven to the conclusion that there is no war on at all out here, but that all the privations are endured at home. Once more thanking you and those who you represent, yours sincerely,

T.J.ELLIOTT
SEWELL, Capt. R.G.A.

J. Dalton (Somewhere in France):-
"I take the opportunity of thanking the people of Teynham and Lynsted for the cigarettes I received. They are very acceptable to us all out here, and we also know that folks at home do not forget us. I hope that you all had a good Xmas in Blighty; I was lucky, under the circumstance, to get a good one. Best of wishes for 1918." [Note: Later died of Broncho Pneumonia, on 13th December 1918]

J. Holness:- "...Assure you your kind gift is much appreciated – a smoke means so much to us out here. Wishing you a happy new year in which the boys here join, and hope for a speedy termination of hostilities."

W Ford:- "...They came just right, just before I was going up the line again, and I was very pleased with them, for it is nice to get a Blighty smoke, and we still think of home." [Note: Later died from Tuberculosis, on 4th September 1919]

H Wyver:- "...It is good to know that friends at home remember the boys who are out here roughing it. I hope to have the pleasure of meeting you and thanking you personally."

William Gates:- "...We can all enjoy a good smoke, especially those that come from the old home. Best wishes for the new year; hope to be with you all again before another one."

J H Dann:- "...Cigarettes were most welcome, and I thank the friends who helped to make the fund a success. It shows that though the lads are away they appreciated."

W Spillett:- "...It is very good of you all to think of us boys out here. Let us all hope we are able to be with you again before long."

W Packham:- "Thank you for the magnificent smokes; they are the best I have smoked. .. Let us all hope that this year is the year of victory."

G Hadlow:- The cigarettes have come in very nicely as I am up the line. Glad to think the people at home think of us."

E Hodges:- "... I can assure you they are much appreciated, and the kindly thought is not overlooked."

S Rickwood:- "... I thank you and the people of Lynsted and Teynham. Trust we shall soon be with them again."

G Packham:- "Many thanks for the cigarettes received. They came at a very 'critical' moment."

G Nipper:- "...The knowledge that our friends at home still think of us greatly helps us to do our duty."

Sergt. Mills:- after expressing his thanks says "Hope to be with you all soon."

H Potts:- "...I and my chums will enjoy them very much."

F A Beach:- "I think it very kind of you; they are always acceptable."

R L Whittle:- "Dear Mr Eacott.- Thanks muchly."

Others who have written briefly but cordially expressing their thanks are: W. Mills, E H Kemp, J R Fagg, G W Rossiter, A F Boorman, C Dunstel, A W Jordan. *Faversham and North East Kent News - 19th January 1918.*

MORE CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Reported in the Faversham and North East Kent News on 26th January: We give a few more extracts from the letters and cards of Teynham and Lynsted men acknowledging the cigarettes sent at Christmastide by the parishioners:-

Gunner J T Baker:- "Best thanks for the cigarettes. I often think of the dear ones at home and wonder how everyone is getting on, and shall do so more when smoking the good old Blighty cigs. The weather is very bad out here now (Jan. 9th), plenty of snow and very cold. We have been out of action for about a month, and came back to the firing line three days ago. Fritz is very active where we are at present, and we do a good bit of 'dodging'. We are all looking forward to being home soon, as we think the war is more on the verge of finishing."

Corpl. E T Sims:- "The cigarettes, you may be sure, were very acceptable and will be enjoyed very much indeed. We never say No to a smoke. The weather is bitter cold out here now; at the present time it is snowing (Jan. 10th). Shall be very glad when the summer comes again, and, best of all, when the war ends." [Killed 28th March 1918.]

Pte. Fred W Rye, A.S.C. Motor Transport (at present in England):- "We are rather busy just now; we have about 500 lorries to keep in repair and about 3300 men in the shops to look after them. I shall be sorry to leave this Company, but of course it has to come sooner or later. All our lorries are used for

munitions transport so you see our time is not wasted by being at home," He concludes with thanks "for all the trouble you have taken for us boys at home and abroad."

Driver G Croucher:- "The cigarettes came at a most opportune moment - when we were all with empty cases."

Others who have written are: W F Dalton, W G Sims, G R Casey, C W Probert, A Gates, E Millen, C A Ruck, H Hubble.

GOT AWAY FROM SALISBURY PLAIN CAMP 18 DAYS AGO

Two escaped German naval men were caught at Deal shortly after Saturday midnight [4th/5th May] in an attempt to cross the Channel to Zeebrugge in an open boat.

The names of the men are Otto Honke (23) and Conrad Sandehagen (22)

Both men were dressed as sailors, wearing blue serge suits and high boots.

Honke, who spoke English fairly fluently, when arrested on the beach, stated that he and three other German sailors had escaped from Larkhill Camp, at Salisbury Plain, on April 17th, and that they had intended to row across to Zeebrugge.

When Honke and Sandehagen were searched they were found to have between them nearly a pound in English silver and an Australian shilling. They had picked out the best boat on the beach, and had hidden in it two bags of biscuits, bread, and other food, some articles of clothing, a razor, a shaving brush, and a knife. One of the men had in his possession a large bottle of water.

In appearance the men looked well and robust, as though they had had no difficulty in obtaining plenty of good food during the 18 days since their escape from the internment camp. It is believed that they have been tramping the country, hiding by day and travelling by night, although in any seafaring district they would easily have passed muster as ordinary seamen. It is

not known what has become of the other two Germans with whom they *escaped from Larkhill*. *The Western Gazette of 10th May 1918*

"RED LION", MILSTED, BANKRUPTCY

Stephen Watson Hall, formerly landlord of the Red Lion Inn, Milsted, near Sittingbourne, applied for his discharge in bankruptcy, at the Rochester County Court on Wednesday [20th February]. The application was granted, but the discharge was suspended for the minimum of two years. *Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald, on 23rd February 1918*

ALLEGED THEFT OF A BICYCLE AT TEYNHAM

At the Faversham County Police Court on Tuesday, before Mr. E. Chambers, Edward Walmisley Rigden, a carpenter, giving an address at Clapham was charged with stealing a bicycle, value £2, the property of Fred Hales at Teynham, on the 23rd inst.

Prosecutor, a dairyman, of the Coffee Tavern, Teynham, stated that about 6.30 p.m. on Friday last he left his bicycle in a cart lodge at the back of his house, and at 8.30 the following morning it was missing. Prisoner lodged at his house on the previous Wednesday, but he did not give him permission to take the bicycle.

P.C. Milgate stated that at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday last he was in Station Road Faversham, when he saw prisoner riding a bicycle, but he did not know then that one had been stolen. About 3 p.m. on the 25th he again saw prisoner in East Street, and as he answered the description of a man who was suspected of taking a bicycle at Teynham on the 23rd witness asked him what he had done with the bicycle he saw him riding on Saturday. He replied that he left it at Canterbury. Witness asked prisoner to accompany him to the

police station while enquiries were being made, and he said "That I will."

Detective Burgess stated that on the previous day prisoner whilst waiting at the police station said "I left that bicycle at a coffee tavern at Sittingbourne, near the station. A man gave it to me outside Greenstreet. I have got his name and address, I put it in my pocket book in case I was stopped with the bicycle." He then produced a pocket book with a name and address in it. Witness told him he would be charged with stealing the bicycle and he made no reply. Witness then went to Sittingbourne, where he was handed the bicycle produced, which had been recovered from the coffee tavern mentioned by the prisoner. Later witness asked him if the name and address he had got of the man who he stated had lent him the bicycle was correct.

He said "I don't want to put you to more trouble, the story about the man is not true. I was in an awful position, I had not much money and very little food. I took the bicycle to get to a friend to try to get something to eat."

The Magistrate remanded prisoner to the Sessions on the 7th March. Prisoner applied for bail, saying that they could have a thousand if they wanted it. The Magistrate fixed the bail at £10 and one surety of £10.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT TEYNHAM

There was a very large congregation at Teynham Parish Church on Sunday evening last (28th April), when the death of four men on active service was commemorated, viz., Privates G. Potts, E. Cheeseman, A.E. Hadlow and Lance-Corporal Joseph Ray. The Vicar read prayers and the sermon was preached by Mr. F. Honeyball. Gunner Rickards, of the Conyer garrison, took the organ and played the Dead March at the close of the service. *Faversham and North East Kent News - 4th May 1918*

TEYNHAM WEDDING FOR HELENA MILDRED FRENCH

WEDDING. The marriage took place on Saturday, May 18th, at Teynham Parish Church, of Mr George Runham Abbott, M.A., of "Cambridge," Faversham (Headmaster at the Faversham Council School) and Miss Helena Mildred French, daughter of the late Mr Charles French, and of Mrs Charles French, of Spring Grove, Teynham. The ceremony was of a quiet character owing to the recent death of the bride's father, and to the absence of her two brothers who are both on active service. The Rev W.A. Purton, Vicar of the parish, officiated. The bride was given away by her uncle, Mr James French, J.P., and was attended by her only sister, Miss Marion K. French. Miss Hylma Whittle, the organist of Teynham Church, played delightful wedding music, and accompanied by the hymn, "Thine for ever," which was sung by the many friends and guests. A reception was held at Spring Grove, and the bride and bridegroom left later for Eastbourne. They were the recipients of many lovely presents. *The Faversham and North East Kent News of 1st June 1918*

FIRE IN NORTON, PROVENDER FARM

Between five and six on Saturday morning a fire broke out at Provender Farm, Norton, in the occupation of Mr. W. Colthup, the Chairman of the Canterbury Farmers' Club. The Faversham fire brigades were telephoned for, and the Norwich and Kent engines, under Captains J.R. Goode and C.H. Semark, proceeded to the spot as quickly as possible. With the aid of a good supply of water from the pond they were able after a good deal of hard work to get the fire under and prevent it spreading to the house, barns, stabling and oast. The granary, a quantity of oats, patent manure, a brand new

cart, a reaper and binder, etc., were destroyed, whilst other agricultural implements were scorched by the flames. The cause of the outbreak is not known. The damage is covered by insurance in the Royal. *Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald reported on 1st June 1918*

CHILDREN SET FIRE

On Tuesday evening [25th June] three little boys were playing with a fire in a tin can near a wheat straw stack, valued at £60, standing on Bogle Farm, Lynsted, Sittingbourne, when the stack became ignited and was completely destroyed. *The Kent Messenger - 29th June 1918*

LOCAL WAR ITEMS - Private Arnold Brooker, Machine Gun Section, younger son of Mr A Brooker, of The Plough Inn, Lucerne Street, has been reported missing since May 27th. An officer who has written, however, says it is not improbable he is a prisoner. Hope is therefore entertained that news may yet be heard of him. Private Brooker, who completed his 22nd year just recently, joined up in the West Kents when he was eighteen years of age. He went to the front more than three years ago, and with the exception of two visits home, had been in the thick of the fighting ever since and had been once wounded. Mr Brooker's elder son, George, is a leading seaman in the Navy in which he has served over 7 years, and one of the daughters, Miss Grace Brooker, is serving in the W.A.A.C. [Women's Army Auxiliary Corps] in which she has risen to Section Leader. She is at present in Wiltshire. The husband of another daughter is also in the Navy, so that the family, like many others, is intimately connected with the war. *Faversham and North East Kent News of 6th July 1918*

[**Society Note:** Enlisted into West Kents before joining the Machine Gun Corps. Entered France on 1st June 1915 - Medal Card]

TEYNHAM GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr and Mrs William Henry Hodge, of Barrow Green, Teynham, celebrated their *golden wedding* last Friday [16th August]. They both belong to Borden, but immediately after their marriage moved to Teynham where Mr. Hodge has worked for fifty years. The old people's eldest son, William Harry Hodge, was killed at Vimy Ridge, on April 10th last year, at the age of 32 years, and the younger son, Stanley Charles Hodge, who is in the Canadian Forces, is at present in hospital, he having been badly gassed about a fortnight ago. Two grandsons of Mr and Mrs Hodge are also serving." *East Kent Gazette of 10th November 1918.*

LYNSTED, ALL ABOUT A GUN. At the Faversham County Petty Sessions on Thursday in last week, before Mr. W.W. Berry (in the chair), Brigadier-General P.D. Jeffreys, Captain C.E. Cheetham, Messrs F. Neame, W.R Dixon, E. Chambers, and J. French, John Pilcher, of Lynsted, was summoned for assaulting Herbert Richard Webb, on the 23rd ultimo. Defendant pleaded not guilty. Mr. Arthur Smith, who appeared for complainant, said that the assault really arose over a financial transaction, the amount in dispute being the trifling sum of threepence. Complainant, who lives at *Fir Cottage, Lynsted*, stated that about 12.30 on October 23rd, he was going to work with a lad named Herbert James, and was carrying a fork and two baskets. On the way he met defendant, who said, "When are you going to pay for that gun!" He had purchased an old gun from defendant for one shilling, but had not paid him. He told defendant he would pay him when he had paid for the wurtzel he had from him. Defendant then said, "I will pay you now," and punched him on the nose causing it to bleed for an hour. He acted in his own defence, and in doing so slipped and sprained his side. As

soon as he got up defendant picked up his (witness') fork and took it away with him. In reply to defendant witness denied using a bad expression to him. The lad James corroborated. Picher said complainant hit him first. The Bench fined defendant 10/0 and £1/1/0 costs, and the Chairman told him that he would save more trouble if he gave complainant his fork. Defendant promised to do so. *East Kent Gazette of 10th November 1918.*

THE INFLUENZA SCOURGE IN KENT

In every town and district in Kent the influenza epidemic is raging and taking heavy toll of lives. Wherever military are quartered it is spreading alarmingly, and the number of fatal cases is very large. Many have occurred at Canterbury and Dover; in both of which towns there have also been a number of deaths among civilians.

There have been several deaths from influenza at Sittingbourne and Milton, and the doctors have a large number of cases on their hands. The railway staff at Newington is down and an emergency staff from Sittingbourne is running the traffic.

Influenza in the Faversham district has claimed several victims among them Mr. Henry Minter, works manager of Messrs Curtis and Harvey's explosive factory, who passed away on Friday night after a week's illness. He was quite a young man, about 35 years of age, and leaves a widow and two children. Another victim is Miss Marie Jones, a young woman belonging to Wales, who had been an assistant teacher in the Faversham Wesleyan Day School for about a year.

A curious feature about the epidemic – and the same thing has been noted in previous visitations is that it will attack numbers of people in one district and will leave untouched nearly everybody in an adjoining place. For

example, in the hamlet of Maypole, near Herne, a tradesman of Canterbury who was doing business there last week, learnt that practically no cases of the disease had occurred up to the date of his visit, but at Broomfield, and adjoining village, it was raging and among the victims were many strong, robust men who had never before had a day's illness in their lives. *Whitstable Times and Herne Bay Herald - Saturday 02 November 1918*

BAKERY BUSINESS

GREENSTREET. Business change – C.H. Gambell, of Greenstreet, desires to inform the customers of his late father and the public generally, that he intends continuing the business of a Bread Baker. On and after Monday next, the 16th instant, he will be in a position to provide best quality Bread and Flour at controlled prices, guaranteeing satisfaction to purchasers. *East Kent Gazette - 14th September 1918*

GREENSTREET WORKERS' UNION MEETING CALLS FOR COMPLETE SURRENDER

Reported in the East Kent Gazette of 19th October 1918: "GREENSTREET. LABOUR AND THE WAR. - At a branch meeting of the members of the Greenstreet Branch of the Workers' Union, the following resolution was passed: "That this, the Greenstreet Branch of the Workers' Union, earnestly requests the Government to refuse negotiating for peace with any of the present Central Governments as now constituted, and expresses the hope that the complete surrender of the enemy, and nothing short of this shall be the first steps to such negotiations."

Remembrance

Robert Stewart/Stuart
CLARK (Lynsted)

Herbert David
GAMBELL MM
(Lynsted)

Charles Henry **BACK**
(Newnham)

Herbert Ewart **KADWILL**
(Lynsted)

Albert Edward
HADLOW (Lynsted)

Thomas **WIGG**
(Lynsted/Teynham)

Elvey Thomas **SIMS**
(Lynsted)

Albert Edward **PILES**
(Newnham)

Ernest **CHEESEMAN**
(Teynham)

Joseph Henry **RAY**
(Teynham)

William John
MATCHAM (Oare)

Frank **BUTLER**
(Newnham)

Thomas **KNIGHT**
(Luddenham)

Reginald **FRENCH**
(Lynsted)

Albert Henry
LUCKHURST (Oare)

James **DAVIS**
(Doddington)

Frederick Walter **WILES**
(Lynsted)

Edward George
LUCKHURST (Oare)

Alfred Henry **FEAVER**,
MM (Teynham)

Edward James Victor
WHITE (Teynham)

Frederick **HAWKES**
(Luddenham)

Sidney **PHILPOT**
(Teynham)

Charles Peter **BOOKER**
(Lynsted/Norton)

James Frederick **LAKER**
(Teynham)

William Frank **BACK**
(Teynham)

Bertie Charles **DOWNS**
(Teynham)

Thomas James
LAVENDER
(Luddenham)

George **RAINES**
(Newnham)

Leslie Jack **FIELD**
(Newnham)

Ernest **BLACK**
(Teynham)

Frederick George
BOORMAN (Oare)

Armistice

Charles Robert **COLE**
(Oare)

Benjamin Dan **BLACK**
(Teynham)

John **DALTON**
(Teynham)