

Local Gallantry Award Winners of the First World War



RETFORD & SURROUNDING AREA



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— North Nottinghamshire —



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Compiled by Stephen Sullivan

(Workshop Library Service Advisor for Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries)

This research was undertaken in 2018 with the support of Bassetlaw District Council's First World War Project Team. The document consists of transcribed newspaper reports relating to local servicemen's awards for gallantry or meritorious service during the First World War.

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The following sources of information, relating to First World War servicemen from Retford and area, may also be of interest to the reader:

- *For Bravery in the Field* (2018) by Harry Foxley (exploring the backgrounds of men from Retford and area who won First World War gallantry awards and the circumstances of their awards) – Available at Retford Library
- Roll of Honour to the Men of Retford and District who fell in the Great War compiled by Tony and Judith Goodall – Available at Retford Library and Bassetlaw Museum
- Nottinghamshire County Council's Roll of Honour, available online at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/rollofhonour

Retford Library has (on microfilm) the Retford Times newspaper (1871 to present). Ancestry Library Edition and the British Newspaper Archive are available to access for free, through Inspire's online subscriptions, in Nottinghamshire Libraries and Nottinghamshire Archives.

Front page illustration: DCM recipient Sergeant James Worthington, 78th Field Company, Royal Engineers - photo by Edgar Welchman, printed in the Retford Times 28th January 1916

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Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Aby (Abey)	Benjamin Charles	Farrier/Sergeant		14th June 1918
Aby (Abey)	John (Jack)	Corporal	9th November 1917	
Aby (Abey)	William	Private	9th November 1917 & 8th November 1918	14th December 1917
Adams	Ernest	Gunner	17th May 1918	18th December 1917
Ashley	Evelyn	Gunner	23rd June 1916	2nd June 1916
Axon	Walter Horace	Private	31st December 1915	
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Bambook (Banbrook?)	George	Private	13th October 1916	
Banks	J.H.	Private	10th August 1917	14th September 1917
Beardsall	William	Private	22nd March & 10th May 1918	25th January 1918
Becher	J.P.	Captain	7th January 1916	31st December 1915
Becke	John Harold Whitworth	Major (Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Lieutenant-Colonel) (Temporary Brigadier-General)	7th January 1916, 18th May 1917	16th February & 31st December 1915, 22nd February & 29th December 1916, 7th & 14th December 1917, 16th April & 31st May 1918, 30th May 1919
Beecroft	William	Mechanician	29th September 1916	15th September 1916
Bell	Bert	Lance-Corporal	4th October 1918	10th September 1918
Benn	Leonard	Private		10th October 1916
Bertt	W.	Private	31st August 1917	
Bennett	Frank	Corporal	6th October 1916	8th August 1916
Blakey	J.	Sapper		13th May 191
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Booth	J.	Private	1st December 1916	
Bowman	A.E.	Lance-Corporal	4th October 1918	10th September 1918
Bradley	Joseph	Private	24th November 1916, 31st August 1917	5th January 1917
Brett	William	Private	31st August 1917	25th September 1917
Brooke	William Reginald	Second-Lieutenant	17th & 31st August 1917	24th August 1917
Carter	John W (Jack)	Private	8th March 1918	12th March 1918
Chappell	Ernest	Sergeant	28th September 1917, 26th April 1918	17th July & 25th September 1917 12th July 1918 3rd December 1918

Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Clark	Robert	Private	4th October 1918	10th October 1916, 11th January, 10th September & 3rd December 1918
Clark	W.	Lieutenant	24th November 1916	
Cobb	A.A.	Sergeant	6th September 1918	26th August 1918
Cook	G.	Private	8th November 1918	13th May 1919
Corke	Cecil Arthur	Lance-Corporal	1st September 1916	1st September 1916
Cox	Joseph S.	Trooper	11th July 1919	3rd June 1919
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Daley??		Sergeant-Major	3rd November 1916	
Denison	Edward Bridgeman	Captain	3rd November 1916	16th February 1915, 31st December 1915 Edinburgh Gazette 23rd October 1916, 4th January 1917
Denison	Harry	Major		2nd June 1916,
Denman	James Arthur	Sergeant	17th January & 15th August 1919	31st December 1918, 2nd September 1919
Dennis	Frederick H.	Private		12th July 1918
Dickinson	N.	Lieutenant	31st January 1919	
Doe	Percy William	Private	23rd March 1917	23 March 1917
Drake	P.W.	Sergeant (now Lieutenant)		27th October 1916
Drakes	C.E.	Second-Lieutenant	14th June 1918	31st May 1918
East	Tom	Squadron Sergeant-Major	3rd & 10th March, 21st July 1916, 14th September 1917,	22nd February & 16th July 1916, 9th & 30th April 1918 10th May 1918, 15th August 1919
Ede	Fred	Acting Sergeant	25th February, 17th March & 10th November (Death) 1916	14th March 1916
Ellis	Edward	Sergeant	2nd June 1916, 4th January 1918	2nd June 1916
Elston	G.H.	Private	31st January 1919	3rd December 1918

Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Fagan	B.	Private		13th May 1919
Fitzgibbon	Albert Lanceley	Lance-Corporal	11th February 1916	28th January 1916
Fletcher	George Edmund	Lance-Corporal	22nd February 1918	26th March 1918
Foulkes	Frederick Albert	Private	23rd August 1918	14th December 1917, 26th June 1918
Fowler	G.H.	Major (Temporary Lieut.-Colonel)	7th January 1916	31st December 1915
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Garland	J.	Corporal	23rd November 1917	25th January 1918
Garner	H.	Driver	8th June 1917	
Gleaden	Herbert	Private (Stretcher Bearer)	22nd September 1916	
Gleadon	William	Corporal	21st February 1919	7th February 1919
Goacher	Frederick	Captain	28th February 1919	1st April & 9th December 1919
Gorwood	F.	Lance-Corporal	3rd November 1916 14th November 1916	12th September &
Gough	Harold	Second-Lieutenant	22nd September 1916	26th September 1916
Grantham	Ernest	Lance-Corporal	21st January & 17th March 1916	31st December 1915, 11th & 28th January 10th March 1916
Gray	J.S.	Staff Quarter- Master Sergeant		14th June 1918
Green	Frank	Private	27th December 1918 & 24th January & 1st August 1919	22nd July 1919
Green	William	Sergeant		19th January 1917
Green	William Leslie	Sergeant	17th November 1916, 16th February 1917, 2nd August 1918	10th November 1916, 23rd July 1918
Griffin	Cuthbert Fleeming	Second-Lieutenant	29th September 1916	26th September 1916
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Hacking	A.	Lieutenant	7th January 1916 & 3rd January 1919	31st December 1915
Handley	F.C.	Sergeant	2nd August 1918	10th October 1918
Harcourt- Vernon	Granville Charles Fitzherbert	Captain	17th November 1916	14th November 1916
Hatch	John	Corporal	28th February 1919	11th March 1919
Hatton	J.	Private	27th July 1917	17th July 1917
Heath	George	Private		2nd August 1918
Hethershaw	W.F.	Sergeant	17th January 1919	31st December 1918, 2nd September 1919
Hibbard	Walter	Sergeant	5th October 1917	25 September 1917
Higginbottom	Roy	Sub-Lieutenant	14th April 1916	
Highfield	G.W.	Pte.	28th June 1918	

Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Holden	A.F.	Second-Lieutenant	26th September 1916	22nd September 1916
Holmes	W.	Private	21st April 1916	
Hope	Thomas Henry	Farrier Sergeant		3rd October 1919
Hopkinson	George Frederick	Lieutenant	4th October 1918	13th September 1918
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Illger	F.	Sergeant	6th & 27th December 1918	13th May 1919
Jackson	Albert	Lance-Corporal		2nd June 1916
Jackson	James	Regimental Sergeant-Major	29th March 1918	15th February 1918
Jackson	John	Lance-Corporal	11th February 1916	11th January & 10th March 1916
James	E.C.A.	Second Lieutenant (Temporary Captain)	7th January 1916	31st December
Jelf	William	Major	7th January 1916	31st December 1915
Johnson	Thomas William G Gerald	Second-Lieutenant	22nd October 1915	29th October 1915
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Kent	J.	Major	7th January 1916 1	31st December 1915
Keyworth	C.	Private		7th February 1919
King	Hubert Raymond	Sergeant	26th July & 8th November 1918, 3rd & 24th January 1919	12th July 1918, 11th March, 13th May & 29th November 1919
Kipling	Charles	Private	8th March 1918	
Knowles	Alfred Edward	Pioneer	1st June 1917	6th July 1917
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Laister	W.	Gunner	6th December 1918	13th May 1919
Law	C.G.	Lance-Corporal (Acting Corporal)	15th August 1919	15th April 1919, 24th February 1920
Law	J.R.	Sergeant		30th May 1919, 9th March 1920
Laycock	Joseph Frederick	Major (Brevet	8th June & Lieutenant-Colonel)	1st June & 13th July 1917 6th July 1917
Lindley	G.	Sergeant	1st June 1917	16th October 1917
Locking	A.	Private	24th May 1918	26th August 1918
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Mahan	F.	Lance-Corporal	7th January 1916	
Miller	C.	Sergeant	12th November 1915	13th June & 10th November 1916
Miller	Charles F.	Sergeant	24th November 1916	10th November 1916
Millhouse	Hugh	Lance-Corporal	4th October 1918	10th September 1918

Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Minnitt	B.A.	Lance-Corporal, later 2nd Lieutenant	3rd November 1916 31st May 1918	8th December 1916, 16th September 1918
Mitchell	George	Sergeant	9th July & 26th November 1915, 18th February 1916	5th August 1915
Monckton-Arundel	George Vere Arundell	Major	8th June 1917	18th June 1915, 2nd January, 15th May & 1st June 1917
Moore	E.S.D.	Private	29th September 1916 & 15th August 1919	22nd September 1916
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Neppitt	W.	Lance-Sergeant (Acting Sergeant)	21st July 1916	6th July 1916
Norman	Albert	Sergeant	13th December 1918	22nd July 1919
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Oakden	Arthur Marshall	Lieutenant	Worksop Guardian 15th May 1915	13th July 1916
Oates	J.S.C.	Lieutenant	7th January & 28th January 1916	23rd January & 18th December 1917
Oxby	Ernest	Corporal	8th March 1918	25th January 1918
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Peatfield	Joseph	Sergeant	4th April 1919	21st January 1919
Pennington	W.	Second-Lieutenant	27th December 1918	3rd October 1919
Pettinger	Cyril Russell	Sergeant	21st June & 20th December 1918	31st May & 18th October 1918, 17th June 1919
Philipson	Arthur	Sergeant	7th May 20th August & 3rd September 1915	31st December 1915
Piggott	Joseph Victor	Gunner		7th November
Pitt	G. H.	Sergeant (Acting Lieutenant)	21st July 1916	16th July 1916
Pointon	G.H.	Sergeant	3rd January 1919	31st December 1918, 2nd September
Priestley	Walter Cuthbert	Private	5th & 12th October 1917	25th September 1917
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Riley	J. W.	Private (Lance Corporal)		7th February & 13th June 1919
Rolfe	Daniel	Sergeant	1st February & 23rd August 1918	19th October 1917, 25th January 1918
Rose	John William	Sergeant	14th September 1917	14th September 1917
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Salmon	Frank	Corporal	24th January & 28th February 1919	31st December 1918, 2nd September 1919
Skelton	C. A.	Private		14th December 1917
Skelton	G.	Sergeant	27th December 1918	13th May 1919

Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Smith	E.	Private	6th September 1918	26th August 1918
Smith	Fred	Private	10th May 1918	17th July 1917, 23rd April 1918
Smith	H.	Corporal	6th October 1916	
Smith	W. H.	Private	21st July 1916	16th July 1916
Snowdin	Frank	Private	2nd February 1917	23rd January & 2nd March 1917
Spencer	George	Leading Seaman		16th February 1917
Spring	S.	Private	21st July 1916	16th July 1916
Stockdale	Frederick J.	Corporal (Acting Lance-Sergeant)	Retford Times 12th April 1918	15th March 1918
Stockdale	Louis George	Sergeant	22nd June 1917	15th June 1917
Sutton	John W.	Private	1st August 1919	22nd July 1919
Swann	W.	Private	21st July 1916	16th July 1916
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Taylor	C.D.	Lance-Corporal (Acting Sergeant Shoemaker)	17th March 1916	28th January, 1st February & 10th March 1916
Thorpe	H.	Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel)	21st July 1916	16th July 1916
Thorpe	John Somerled	Major	22nd September 1916	11th January 1916
Townend	Arthur Horatio	Private	26th November & 24th December 1915	22nd February 1916
Turnbull	G.	Corporal	6th June 1919	30th May 1919
Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Wagstaff	George	Corporal	28th January 1916	18th June & 24th August 1915
Walker	Bernard	Private (Acting Corporal)	23rd June 1916	2nd June 1916
Walker	Herbert	Private	16th November 1917	
Walker	John Wickham	Captain	30th June 1916	
Ward	T.	Corporal Acting Sergeant	3rd November 1916, 23rd November 1917	8th December 1916, 16th November 1917, 5th February 1918
Watson	Tom			25th May 1917
Webster	William H.	Private (Acting Sergeant)		Edinburgh Gazette 18th July 1918
Westnidge	W.H.	Private	27th December 1918	13th May 1919
Wharton	Ernest Henry	1st Class Staff Sergeant-Major		13th January 1920
White	G.	Sergeant	12th October 1917 & 9th May 1919	6th July 1917, 14th February 1919 & 9th January 1920
Whitehead	John R.	Corporal (Acting Sergeant)		22nd February 1918

Surname	Forename	Rank	Retford Times	London Gazette
Whitlam	C.	Private	10th November 1916	3rd June 1919
Wilkinson	J.	Shoeing-Smith Corporal	29th August 1919	3rd June 1919
Wistow	B. J.	Sergeant	4th October 1918	14th June & 30th August 1918
Woods	Herbert E.	Sergeant	13th December 1918	22nd July 1919
Woodward	P.	Private	13th May 1919	
Woolvine	G. H.	Corporal		30th May 1919
Wordsworth	R. J.	Captain (Temporary Major)	7th & 28th January 1916 4th January 1918	11th January & 10th March 1916, 11th December 1917
Worthington	James	Sergeant	15th October 1915	11th January & 10th March 1916

Retford Times 7th May 1915

SERGT.PHILLIPSON COMMENDED

It is believed that Sergt. Arthur Phillipson, of Retford, has been commended for conspicuous bravery during the Territorials' disastrous spell in the trenches, and has been recommended for a decoration. When they came out of the trenches the Foresters were highly praised by General Stuart Wortley, who said he would mention their splendid conduct in his next dispatch to Sir John French.

Killed in action 8th August 1915. London Gazette 31st December 1915.



Worksop Guardian 28 May 1915

Information reached Retford on Saturday of the death of Lieut. A M Oakden of the Royal Naval Division, Engineer Unit, youngest son of Mr W Oakden, manager of the Nottingham and Notts Bank, Retford. The young officer, who was educated at Retford Grammar School, was wounded in the Dardanelles and died in hospital.

London Gazette 11th July 1916

Retford Times 28th May 1915

BRAVERY IN THE FIELD

RETFORD TERRIER DISTINGUISHES HIMSELF

Although only 19 years of age, Pte. Fred Boothby, of the 8th Batt. Sherwood Foresters (Territorials), son of Mr Albert Boothby, Dominie Cross Road, Retford, has distinguished himself whilst serving with the Expeditionary Force in France, and has been recommended for distinction for conspicuous bravery in the field.

It seems that the trench he was in was practically blown up by German bombs, and many of the men were buried. At considerable risk to himself he climbed out of the trench and went for assistance – a task which he safely accomplished. Some time later, whilst assisting to bring wounded in, he was hit by a bullet in the left arm. After being attended to in the field he was sent back to England, and spent a fortnight in Brighton. He is now spending a few days at Retford with his parents, who are naturally proud of him.

The young soldier, who seems none the worse for his experience, has been the recipient of many congratulations. Captain J.W. Becher, one of the officers of the regiment, wrote: - "Dear Boothby, Your behaviour on the night H4 was blown about was reported to the authorities and General Stuart Wortley has sent the commanding officer the enclosed card to be handed to you as a token of his great appreciation of your conduct. We are all very sorry you were not present to receive the card. I am sending this to your home address, thinking it will probably reach you quicker. I hope you are going on well and that you will soon be back. Yours faithfully, J.W. Becher." The card he received reads: North Midland Division B.E.F. No. 1208 Pte. F. Boothby, 8th Batt. S.F. Your Commanding Officer and Brigade Commander have informed me that you distinguished yourself by conspicuous bravery in the field. I have read the report with much pleasure. E. Stuart Wortley, Major General Commanding North Midland Division." Pte. Boothby was present when Lieut. Eddison, of Mount Vernon, was killed.

Retford Times 9th July 1915

D.C.M. FOR RETFORD MAN

We are pleased to record that the D.C.M. has been awarded to a Retford man for continuous service and devotion to duty, in the person of Sergeant George Mitchell, Machine Gun Section, 2nd Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards). He went out with the 7th Division from Lyndhurst, in Hampshire, last October, landing at Zeebrugge for Antwerp. He was in all the fearful fighting at Ypres last October, being 20 days in the trenches at one time, in the battle of Neuve Chapelle, and again at Festubert and Givenchy, where they lost over 400 men and 11 officers. At Ypres they lost most of their regiment. Sergeant Mitchell has escaped so far, but was recently blown up into the air with a shell. He is the son of Mrs. Mitchell, Carolgate, Retford, and brother to Trooper Mitchell, of the 2nd/1st Notts. Sherwood Rangers, formerly employed at our office. Sergt. Mitchell married the daughter of Mr. J. Robinson, stationmaster at Scrooby, where they are now staying. They have a 15 months old son.

London Gazette 5th August 1915

SERGEANT G. MITCHELL (7911), 2ND YORKSHIRE REGIMENT (GREEN HOWARDS)

For conspicuous gallantry on the 16th May 1915, at Festubert. After his officer was killed, he commanded, with great efficiency, his detachment until he himself was wounded by a high explosive shell. Throughout the campaign he has shown untiring energy, and was responsible for the training of three machine gun detachments. When the machine gun officers were killed, he displayed high powers of command.

Retford Times 13th August 1915

RETFORD MAN'S GALLANTRY

A special supplement to the "London Gazette" issued on Thursday night, contained a list of 4026 awards of the Distinguished Conduct Medal and six awards of a clasp to the medal to warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty whilst serving with the Expeditionary Forces in France and Flanders, the Dardanelles and Turkey in Asia. The list includes the following: -

Sergeant G. Mitchell (7911), 2nd Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards). _ For conspicuous gallantry on the 16th May 1915, at Festubert. After his officer was killed, he commanded, with great efficiency, his detachment until he himself was wounded by a high explosive shell. Throughout the campaign he has shown untiring energy, and was responsible for the training of three machine gun detachments. When the machine gun officers were killed, he displayed high powers of command.

Sergeant Mitchell is a Retford man, and the son in law of Mr. J. Robinson, G.N. station master, Scrooby.

Retford Times 20 August 1915

Sergt Arthur Phillipson who was 32 years of age, was the second son of Mr and Mrs George Phillipson, Richard Street, Newtown, Retford. He joined the old Retford Volunteer Company in 1905, and by dint of perseverance in his duties, rose to the rank of sergeant. He was of a quiet

and general disposition, and took great interest in his work. He was very popular with the men, and his parents, with whom he lived, have lost one of the best sons. Col-Sergt G Phillipson, brother of the deceased, had the painful duty of forwarding the sad news to his parents, who are suffering from the terrible shock which has overcome them. The deceased soldier was educated at the Thrumpton schools and was first employed in the gardens at the Elms, resident of Ald J W Holmes. Then he became an employee of the Northern Rubber Works and was held in the greatest respect and esteem by his fellow workmen. It will be remembered that a short time ago his platoon commander paid a tribute of praise to him for a brave deed performed on the trenches. Lieut James, in the course of a letter, said he was proud to have such a sergeant under him. A little girl who was a great admirer of Sergt Phillipson, made a number of small articles and with the money derived from the sale of them, spent it in writing material for distribution amongst the Retford men in Sergt Phillipson's company. A letter recently received from him and signed "your soldier friend," stated that, "the men are very pleased with the writing paper, envelopes and pencils. They desire me to thank you very much in deed, and you can rest assured they appreciate your kindness. I myself are proud of you, seeing that you are so young and working on our behalf. I am sending you a few postcards which I hope you will like. We are having lovely weather here and if it was not for this terrible war, I should be enjoying myself. I am looking forward to coming home. I hope it will not be long.

Retford Times 3rd September 1915

THE LATE SGT. PHILLIPSON, RETFORD

TRIBUTE BY THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Phillipson, 1 Richard Street, Newtown, Retford, have received a letter written by Lieut-Colonel G.H. Fowler, commanding, 1st/8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts. and Derby), in which he pays a well-deserved tribute to their son who fell in action last month under circumstances already reported. Writing under date August 225th, the Colonel says: - "I want to express to you the very great regret and sympathy which we all feel for you through the death of your son, Sergt. Arthur Phillipson, on Aug. 9th. He was one of the senior con-commissioned officers of the battalion and a man beloved by us all, and his death is the greatest loss to the battalion. He has done splendid work on many occasions for the battalion, and had he lived I am sure that this would have won him rewards from the highest authorities. He was a gallant soldier and has died as a soldier should. I am only so glad that your other son, Col.-Sergt. George Phillipson, has been spared to come back safely to you. With renewed sympathy."

The Rev. J.P. Hales, chaplain to the regiment, also wrote a most sympathetic letter.

Co.-Sergt. George Phillipson arrived at his home in Retford last week from the front, and received a hearty welcome from his many friends and acquaintances. He has reported himself at Newark the headquarters of the regiment, and has finished his service with the battalion. It will be remembered the Col.-Sergt. Phillipson was one of the Volunteers from Retford who served in the South African campaign, and has rendered excellent service for his King and country.

Private Harry Hurst, of the 1st/8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, writing to Mr. Frank Maw, Thrumpton Lane, Retford, a former fellow workman at the Northern Rubber Works, refers in sympathetic terms to the death of Sergt. Arthur Phillipson, "No one could have been more upset than I was. Arthur was a good pal to me. Every man in his platoon will miss him.

He was a good sergeant and a good soldier, and liked by both officers and men. He did some very good work while he was out here, and had been recommended, and I am very sorry to say he has not lived to reap the benefit. You remember the time when poor old Pattison went under. Seven or eight were killed with a trench mortar. Arthur slaved to dig them out with great danger to himself.

He got Pat, and one or two more out when the second mortar came and buried them again. You can imagine what it was like. On another occasion Arthur was out in the front of the trenches barbed wiring with three others, when one got killed and another wounded. He helped to carry them in. He had just taken over the Sergeant-Major's job in the trenches when he got killed himself. Our battalion have had a rough time. They have been in the thick of the fighting, as you have no doubt read of in the papers."

Retford Times 15th October 1915

Sergt. J. Worthington (44090), 78th Field Company, Royal Engineers, whose home is at 28 Humber Street, Retford, and who joined at the commencement of war, has sent from France a certificate he has received bearing the following: -

"Your name has been brought to the notice of the major-general commanding the 17th Division for energy in performance of difficult and dangerous duties. Signed by the Colonel, A.A and Q.M.G., 17th Division."

London Gazette 11th January & 10th March 1916

Retford Times 22nd October 1915

HOW THE MILITARY CROSS WAS WON

The many friends of Mr. G.R. Johnson, of Grove Lane, Retford, will join in congratulating him upon the gallantry of his nephew, Second-Lieut. T.W.G. Johnson, of the Connaught Rangers, who has been awarded the Military Cross for bravery in Gallipoli, when entering a Turkish trench, he bayoneted six and shot two Turks with his own hand.

An advance was planned to take place on August 21st against the Turkish trenches at Kaiajik Aghala. On the sand plains beyond the low hills on which our lines rested lay the wells of Kahab Kuyn strongly guarded by Turkish entrenchments. Th the Rangers was allotted the task of capturing these wells. The time chosen for the attack was shortly before four o'clock in the afternoon. A concentrated bombardment from sea and land proceeded it. Scarcely had the fumes and dust of the last salvo dispersed when "C" Company, in thinly extended lines, moved forward at the double across open ground. They were met by a burst of fire. They replied with the Irish yell, and rushed the trenches. "D" Company was close on their heels. It was swift force work with the bayonet. It was in this attack that Lieut. Johnson, taking a soldier's rifle and bayonet, led his men in the trenches and bayoneted six and shot two Turks. The objective was attained, the wells and their defences in our hands, and the Rangers, their blood up, pushed on to the support of the attack on their right. "Congratulate the Connaught Rangers on their fine assault," wired General Sir A. Godley. Another instance of Lieut. Johnson's bravery is recorded. He was talking to his captain (Captain Hog) when a shell burst and struck the latter in the face. Lieut. Johnson stopped the bleeding and carried him under heavy fire to a place of safety, returning under fire to the trenches to lead his men to victory.

Lieut. Johnson was wounded and invalided home to Dublin, but is now well on the way to recovery. Lieut. Johnson is the son of Dr. T. Johnson, of the Royal Collage of Senna, Dublin, and grandson of the late Mr. G. Johnson, tanner, of Moorgate, Retford.

London Gazette 29th October 1915

TEMPORARY SECOND LIEUTENANT THOMAS WILLIAM GERALD JOHNSON, 5TH BATTALION, THE CONNAUGHT RANGERS

For conspicuous gallantry in the Gallipoli peninsula on several occasions, notably the following: -

On 8th August 1915, during the attack on Lone Pine, when he showed the greatest personal bravery. On 21st August, during the attack on the well and trenches at Kabak Kuyu, when he led his men in the most dashing manner, and entering the Turkish trenches bayoneted 7 Turks with his own hands.

Retford Times 12th November 1915

CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY

Sergt. C. Miller, 4th Leicester Regt., brother of Mrs. J. Wood, Locksley Cottage, Pennington Walk, Retford, has distinguished himself on the battlefield. He has received the following card from Major-General E. Stuart-Wortley, commanding the North Midland Division: - "Your Commanding Officer and Brigade Commander have informed me that you have distinguished yourself by conspicuous bravery in the field. I have read the report with much pleasure, and am bringing your conduct to the notice of superior authority." Sergt. Miller, who attained that rank recently on returning to the front after a few days' leave, is to be congratulated upon his gallantry. His home is at Leicester, and he enlisted about two months after the outbreak of war. He is 22 years of age.

London Gazette 13th June 1916

London Gazette 16th November 1915

2172 LANCE-CORPORAL W. E. BOOT, 1ST/8TH BATTALION, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND DERBYSHIRE REGIMENT, T.F. (ATTACHED 139TH BRIGADE MINING SECTION).

For conspicuous gallantry near Hollebeke on 23rd September 1915. The enemy exploded a mine, thereby blowing up a portion of one of our galleries near which three men were working. Second Lieutenant Webster and Lance-Corporal Boot immediately went into the galleries to try and save one man who was missing. After they had been repeatedly driven back by gas, a Private went down, with air piping, but found the missing man dead. All three were severely gassed.

**2092 PRIVATE F. ATTENBOROUGH, 1ST/8TH BATTALION,
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND DERBYSHIRE REGIMENT, T.F.
(ATTACHED 139TH BRIGADE, MINING SECTION).**

For conspicuous gallantry near Hollebeke on 23rd September 1915. The enemy exploded a mine, thereby blowing up a portion of one of our galleries, near which three men were working. Second Lieutenant Webster, and a Non-Commissioned Officer immediately went into the galleries to try and save one man who was missing. After they had been repeatedly driven back by gas, Private Attenborough went down with air-piping, but found the missing man dead. All three were severely gassed.

**Retford Times 26th November 1915
DISTINCTION FOR A RETFORD SOLDIER**

Trumpeter A. Townend, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Townend, 3 Tunnel Road, Retford, was called up at the outbreak of war with the Leicester Yeomanry. At the time he was working under Dr. Macphail at the Mental Hospital, Rowditch, Derby. The doctor spoke very highly of him, and promised to send him anything he needed, which promise he has kept, having sent him many things for his own comfort and also medical requisites. He sailed for France on Nov. 3rd 1914. He has had many exciting and narrow escapes since that time. He was one of the few left uninjured after the glorious stand made by the Leicesters in May. He was recommended for distinction first by Major Ricardo, and later by the votes of his comrades, the result being that he was one of those who received honour at the hands of the French general on Nov. 6th in the form of the French Military Medal.

One of the many incidents that occurred during that time will serve to show his coolness and courage. He was helping a wounded officer out of the firing line when he was suddenly confronted by six Germans. The following are his own words: "There was no time to think. My rifle was clogged with mud. I put down the officer, put my rifle to my shoulder, and went for them, calling to them to surrender. Luckily for me they did surrender. What I should have done if they had not I do not know. I made two carry the officer and another his kit, and so I marched them to the farm and gave them in charge."

His comrades are beginning to think that there is luck where he is, and when in a tight corner are anxious to be near him so that they may have a little themselves.

See also Retford Times 24th December 1915 and London Gazette 22nd February 1916

**Retford Times 26th November 1915
RETFORD'S D.C.M
PROMOTED TO COMPANY SERGEANT- MAJOR**

Mr. H.L Pratt, hon. sec. of the Retford Sailors' and Soldiers' Comforts Association, has received the following letter from Company Sergeant-Major G. Mitchell, of the "Green Howards", who has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal: - "We go into the trenches for only 48 hours now, and of course we have only 48 hours out. We come out covered in mud from head to foot, and you can understand it takes a long time to get cleaned, and with various other little jobs, one has not much time to spare. Givenchy was the hottest action I have yet seen.

I dropped across the 8th Sherwood Foresters a few weeks ago, but did not see many I knew. I have not seen many Retford lads right through the campaign. I should like to drop across Len Priestley. I was quite near to him last winter, but could not manage to see him, and I have not been round that way since. I have had a slight rise just lately, being promoted to Company Sergeant-Major."

Retford Times 24th December 1915

RETFORD MAN'S DISTINCTION

AWARDED FRENCH MILITARY MEDAL

We are pleased to record that Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Townend, 3 Tunnel Road, Retford, received last Sunday morning the French Military Medal (in case) awarded to their only son, Trumpeter A. Townend, for distinction in the field. The obverse bears the words "Republique Francaise, 1870," and the reverse "Valeur et Discipline." It was presented to the recipient in the presence of a thousand troops in Flanders. His many friends are pleased to hear of his success, and congratulate him upon his bravery. The award carries with it 100 francs a year for life.

Trumpeter Townend is an old boy of the Retford Wesleyan Day School. He started as a messenger at the Post Office, and was afterwards a letter carrier. He served four years in the Notts. Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, and left Retford for Stretton Post Office in Rutland. He was called up at the outbreak of war with the Leicestershire Yeomanry. For the two previous years he was an attendant at the Derby Mental Hospital, holding a responsible position, and a great favourite with everyone. His colleagues (says the "Derbyshire Advertiser") are proud of him and of the reflected glory on the institution.

He has been on the Western front since the beginning of November 1914, and has had many exciting and narrow escapes since that time. He was one of the few left uninjured after the glorious stand made by the Leicesters in May. He was recommended for distinction first by Major Ricardo, and later by the votes of his comrades, the result being that he was one of those who received honour at the hands of the French general on December 2nd in the form of the French Military Medal.

One of the many incidents that occurred during that time will serve to show his coolness and courage. He was helping a wounded officer out of the firing line when he was suddenly confronted by six Germans. The following are his own words: "There was no time to think. My rifle was clogged with mud. I put down the officer, put my rifle to my shoulder, and went for them, calling to them to surrender. Luckily for me they did surrender. What I should have done if they had not I do not know. I made two carry the officer and another his kit, and so I marched them to the farm and gave them in charge." His comrades are beginning to think that there is luck where he is, and when in a tight corner are anxious to be near him so that they may have a little themselves.

Retford Times 31st December 1915

GALLANTRY

Pte. W.H. Axon, 5th K.O.Y.L.I., brother of Pte. Harold Axon, 8th Sherwood Foresters, who was formerly employed at the G.N.R. Telegraph Dept., Retford, has been commended for his gallantry in the field.

Retford Times 7th January 1916

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

“GALLANT AND DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT IN THE FIELD”

MAJOR J.P. BECHER, D.S.O., DIES FROM WOUNDS

A list of over 6,000 officers and men is included in the final despatch from Sir Joh French, dated November 30th, which was published on Saturday last, as being specially recommended for “gallant and distinguished conduct in the field.” Amongst those honoured are: -

Wordsworth, Capt. (Temporary Major) R.J., Notts. and Derby (T.F.)

Becke, Brevet-Major (Temporary Lieut.-Col.) J.H.W., Notts. and Derby.

Birkin, Lieut-Colonel C.W.

Fowler, Major (Temporary Lieut.-Colonel) G.H. (killed)

Becher, Captain (Temporary Major) J.P., D.S.O.

Hacking, Second-Lieut. (Temporary Lieut.) A.

James, Second-Lieut. (Temporary Captain) E.C.A.

Vann, Second-Lieut. (Temporary Capt.) B.W.

Oates, Second-Lieut. (Temporary Captain) J.S.C.

Phillipson, No. 8 Sergeant A. (killed)

Kent, Major J., North Midland Brigade

Jelf, Major W.W., D.S.O.

Captain E.C.E. James of the 8th Batt. S.F., received his commission in October 1913, and was given his company in June last. He took a prominent part in strengthening the numbers in the Retford Company in the early part of 1914, and when the Company went into camp previous to the outbreak of war it was the strongest Company in the Battalion. He was highly respected by the men serving under him in France. Upon one memorable occasion, he had a particularly warm time when in command of his Company. They were holding wood, when by some misunderstanding the supports retired. The enemy were unable to ascertain their strength or their case would have been hopeless. As it was they pluckily “stuck it,” and were able to hold the position. Capt. James, who was a solicitor with Mr. W.P. Jones, Town Clerk of East Retford, before going on active service, is to be congratulated upon the honour conferred upon him. Some months ago he had a nervous breakdown, and was invalided home. He is still on leave.

Major Wordsworth was formerly in command of the Retford Territorial Company, and it was with great regret that owing to his leaving the district he had to resign. He acted as galloper to the Brigadier at the last camp, and on the outbreak of war was given a staff appointment. He is a son of the late agent to Earl Manvers.

Captain B.W. Vann, 8th Sherwood Foresters, who is the possessor of the Military Cross, entered the battalion shortly after the outbreak of war. He is a clerk in Holy Orders, and was chaplain and assistant master at Wellingborough Grammar School. Some years ago he played football as an amateur for Derby County.

Lieut. J.S.C. Oates received a commission in the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters in October 1914, and was promoted to a lieutenancy shortly after the battalion proceeded to France. He is a son of Colonel W.C. Oates, of Besthorpe, Newark.

Lieut. A. Hacking was granted a commission in the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters in October 1914.

Major J.H. W. Becke, of the Notts. and Derbyshire Regiment, attached to the Royal Flying Corps, is a son of the late Rector of Beckingham, and before the war was in charge of aeroplanes which visited Newark. He has before been mentioned in despatches.

Major Wm. Jelf, D.S.O., of the Royal Horse Artillery, was the first adjutant of the Notts. Battery when it was formed by Colonel Laycock, and was an extremely popular officer.

Major J. Kent, of the North Midland Brigade, was formerly adjutant of the Notts. Sherwood Rangers, and lived at Blyth.

Sergt. Arthur Phillipson was killed on active service in the summer months. He joined the old Retford Volunteer Company in 1905, and was 32 years of age. A tribute of praise was paid him by his platoon commander for an act of bravery in the trenches. He was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Phillipson, Richard Street, Retford.

Major J.P. Becher, D.S.O., passed away on Saturday. His wounds were very severe, and through lying out all on day and two nights septic poisoning set in. His wife and mother were with him when he died. Captain in Temporary Major in the 8th Sherwood Foresters, he was a popular and efficient officer, and was awarded the D.S.O. for conspicuous bravery. When part of his trench was blown in, he organised the defence of the breach under heavy fire, and displayed the greatest gallantry and coolness. He also displayed great coolness and cheerfulness under trying conditions when in temporary command of the battalion. He was wounded when leading his men in the attack on Hohenzollern Redoubt, and lay for 48 hours before he could be moved. He was only 30 yards from the enemy trenches, and Lieut-Colonel Fowler was killed by a sniper in his efforts to get Major Becher into our lines. His two brothers-in-law, Captain H.B.S. Handford and Lieut. E.F.S. Handford, were killed at the same time. The gallant officer was a son of the late Major John and Mrs. Becher, of Southwell. Born in the minster town 36 years ago, he was a partner in the firm of Larken and Co., solicitors, Newark, and was four years clerk to the Newark County Bench of Magistrates. He married a daughter of Dr. and the Ho. Mrs Handford, Elmfield House, Southwell, and leaves a widow and several young children to mourn their loss.

A memorial service was held in Southwell Cathedral on Tuesday, conducted by the Bishop of Southwell, who paid a warm tribute to the deceased officer. Brother officers and wounded men from the battalion were present. The "Dead March" was played, and the "Last Post" sounded.

The Secretary of the War Office announces that a list of honours and rewards based on the recommendations will be published at the earliest possible date.

Retford Times 7th January 1916

EVERTON

CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY - Lance-Corpl. F. Mahan, of the 1st/7th Sherwood Foresters, has been mentioned for conspicuous bravery in the field. Corpl. Mahan is a highly intelligent, well-educated young fellow. He was brought up at Everton by his aunt, Miss Oldfield, who, it need hardly be said, is intensely gratified by the acknowledgement of the bravery of her well-loved nephew.

Retford Times 21st January 1916

ANOTHER RETFORD D.C.M.

Another gallant soldier has brought one more honour to Retford. He is Corporal Ernest Grantham, of the 8th Sherwood Foresters (T.F.), who has been awarded the decoration for gallant deeds at the front. Corpl. Grantham was for five years an employee of Mr. E.R. Bamforth, baker and confectioner, Retford. He was a member of the Ambulance Brigade, and held the medallion and certificates for first-aid work. He was also a playing member of the Retford Rovers F.C. He enlisted in September 1914, with his friend, Corpl. Carl Hartmann. **London Gazette 31st December 1915, 11th January & 10 March 1916**

Retford Times 21st January 1916

LOCAL HONOURS

A supplement to the "London Gazette" was issued last Thursday containing a long list of honours and decorations for officers and men for war service. The names of the recipients occupy 55 pages of the "Gazette," and include many of local interest. Brigadier Charles Tyrell Shipley, who commanded the Notts. and Derbyshire Infantry Brigade, and Brigadier-General J.E.B. Seely, are gazetted additional members of the Third Class or Companions of the Bath; and Lieut.-Colonel C.W. Birkin, of the Robin Hoods, who was wounded some time ago, is appointed an additional member of the Third Class, or Companion of the Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, as are Lieut.-Colonel Geo. Alfred Lewis, of the Notts. and Derbyshire Regiment (T.F.), Lieut.-Colonel Sandall, of the Lincolnshire Territorials, Lieut.-Colonel Westmoreland, D.S.O., who is attached to the Lincolnshire Regiment, Lieut.-Colonels Jones and Martin, of the Leicestershire Territorials, and Major F.C. O'Rorke, of the Army Veterinary Corps. Major A.L. Ashwell, of the 8th Notts. and Derby Territorials, who is at home wounded, receives the D.S.O., and Captain J.S.C. Oates, of the same Battalion, the Military Cross, while among the many non-commissioned officers and men who receive the D.C.M., are many local Territorials.

Retford Times 28th January 1916

ANOTHER RETFORD D.C.M.

Another gallant Retford man has received the Distinguished Conduct medal for gallantry in the field. He is Sergt. James Worthington, 78th Field Company, Royal Engineers. He had also received the following official recognition on a specially designed card, which he has forwarded to his wife, Mrs. Worthington of Humber Street, Retford: - "Your name has been brought to the notice of the Major-General Commanding the 17th Division for energy in performance of difficult and dangerous duties. F. Muxford, Colonel, A.A. and Q.M.G., 17th Division."



Photo: Edgar Welchman, Retford

Sergt. Worthington was a well-known road racer of the old Retford Speedwell Cycling Club, and still holds the record for 50 miles unpaced ride, and several medals won in cycle and harrier races. He joined the Retford Volunteer Cyclists' Corps when 17 years old, and was a member of the team which won the North Midland Brigade Cyclist Challenge Cup for the 4th Notts. for the first time under Sergt. H. Turvey. After three years in the Cyclist Corps, he transferred to the Welbeck troop of the Sherwood Rangers Imperial Yeomanry. Two years later he was transferred to the Retford troop. He left the service for two years, and re-enlisted in the Retford "A" Company of the 8th Batt. Notts. and Derby Regt., acting as regimental postman for three years. He resigned about a year before war broke out. He left a situation as foreman of the "Sunbeam" motor repair department of Birmingham to enlist in the Royal Engineers on August 29th 1914. He was a proficient fitter on Sept. 1st; lance corporal, Oct. 28th; second-corporal Nov. 3rd; corporal, Nov. 9th; and sergeant, Jan. 8th 1915. We congratulate Sergt. Worthington upon his splendid record and meritorious conduct.

London Gazette 11th January & 10th March 1916

Retford Times 28th January 1916

RUSSIAN MEDAL OF ST. GEORGE

AWARD TO RETFORD MAN

Corpl. Geo. Wagstaff, nephew of Mr. Geo. Wagstaff, late borough rate collector, of Retford, and who, when at Retford, lodged with Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Johnson, Tunnel Road, has been decorated with the Russian medal of St. George, by the Colonel of the Regiment at Seaforth Barracks. The Colonel, in a brief address to the men gave particulars of the various acts for which the medal was awarded. At Bethune, although himself wounded, Corpl. Wagstaff stuck to his post, and at the close was the only officer or N.C.O. left. He gathered together the 42 men left and marched them back to their billets. He carried a lad of 18, who had been shot in the groin to shelter, and advised him not to call out when he moved him, but owing to the serious nature of his wounds the lad could not hold back a shout of pain. The Germans immediately turned a machine gun on them. They secured shelter and escaped in the dark. He was recommended for honours at Neuve Chapelle, but preferred to be promoted instead. He was offered a commission on the field, but declined the offer. By accepting the Medal of St. George instead of the D.C.M., two prisoners are released each year from Siberia. In a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Corpl. Wagstaff's chum says: - "I don't think there is a finer or braver man living then George Wagstaff."

Mr. Geo Wagstaff is naturally very proud of his brave nephew. He apprenticed him when a boy to the printing trade, and when he was 18 years of age took him to a situation at Cambridge and placed some money in the Post Office Savings bank in his name. The lad however, always had a fancy for the Army, and he joined the King's Colours 12 years ago and spent five years in India.

London Gazette 24th August 1915

Retford Times 4th February 1916

GALLIPOLI HONOURS

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

A supplement to the "London Gazette," issued on Friday night, contains a list of names of officers and men mentioned in Sir Ian Hamilton's recent despatch. The following are included:

Nottinghamshire (Sherwood Rangers) Yeomanry

Lieut.-Col. Sir J.P. Milbanke, Bt., V.C. (Major, Reserve of Officers) (Killed); Capt. J.D.F. Woodhouse, 14th Hussars (Adjutant).

Colonel Sir John P. Milbanke, V.C., who was killed in action in the Dardanelles in August last, served through the South African war with the 10th Hussars, and was awarded the Victoria Cross for a heroic act while severely wounded. He was appointed to the command of the Sherwood Rangers in October 1914.

Captain J.D.F. Woodhouse, who lived at Blyth, served some years in the 14th Hussars before being appointed adjutant of the Sherwood Rangers in October 1911.

Nottinghamshire (South Notts. Hussars)

Temp. Lieut.-Col. E.H. Cole (Colonel Indian Army; Major T.P. Barber.

Derbyshire Yeomanry

Temp. Major F. Fitz H. Lance (Major, 13th Lancers).

LORD C. CAVENDISH-BENTINCK MENTIONED

In the list of those mentioned in the despatch of Sir Ian Hamilton was the name of Brevet-Major (temporary Lieut.-Colonel) Lord C. Cavendish-Bentinck, Reserve of Officers, under the heading of the Australian and New Zealand Forces. Lord Charles is the brother of the Duke of Portland and Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P.

Retford Times 11th February 1916

MILTON SOLDIER HONOURED

The only son of Sergt. Fitzgibbon, 14th Sherwood Foresters, and Mrs. Fitzgibbon, Milton, was mentioned in Sir Ian Hamilton's Gallipoli despatches. He was one of the brave lads of the 9th Sherwood Foresters, 33rd Brigade, who made the wonderful landing at Suvla Bay. He is now in a Military Convalescent Camp, recovering from wounds received at Chocolate Hill on August 21st. He was wounded in the right arm, right eye, and left side. Happily, the gallant lad is recovering the use of his arm, which it was at first thought would have to be amputated. Lance-Corpl. Fitzgibbon enlisted on August 16th 1914, having previously been employed as a cleaner at the Great Central Railway Sheds, Tuxford. He went out to the Dardanelles in June last year.

The brave lad was only 18 years of age.

London Gazette 28th January 1916



LANCE-CORPL.
ALBERT LANCELEY FITZGIBBON

Retford Times 11th February 1916

BRAVERY REWARDED

HONOUR FOR A UPTON SOLDIER

Lance-Corpl. John Jackson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, of Upton, has been awarded the D.C.M., for serving his gun alone for 12 hours, after being wounded at the battle of Hoage. Mrs. Jackson has two sons serving in France serving their King and country.

London Gazette 11th January & 10th March 1916

Retford Times 18th February 1916

D.C.M.'S NARROW ESCAPE

Mr. J. Robinson, G.N. station master at Scrooby, has received the following letter from his son-in-law, Company Sergt.-Major Geo. Mitchell, 2nd Yorks. Regiment, the Retford D.C.M.: - "We have been in this district now for about five weeks, and wherever we go we get shelled. We have never once been moved out of the shelled area. We do four days in the trenches, four days in tents in a wood, four days in the trenches again, and then four days in a small town just behind which the Germans invariably shell every day. When we were in the wood they started at 2 o'clock in the morning, and I was sleeping in a little wooden hut. The shells were just passing over it, and bursting in a bit of a valley just behind. At 6.20a.m. I went round the tents to get all the men out, when they started dropping shrapnel all amongst them. I was very fortunate; one came very near, and sent the chalk flying about. I had a piece taken off my nose, and, my word! It did bleed. I am glad to say it is all right again now, but I can assure you it did not do my nerves any good. They kept up a terrible bombardment all day, and made things very unpleasant for us. I expected they were going to attack, but it was more on our own right. I see they have had Zeps over England again, and that they did a bit of damage. I wonder when this cruel war will end. I am sure it does not look much like ending yet."

Retford Times 25th February 1916

ANOTHER RETFORD D.C.M.

We are pleased to record that another Retford man has been awarded the D.C.M. He is Sergt. Fred Ede, "A" Company 9th Sherwood Foresters, 33rd Brigade, 11th Division B.M.E.F., son of Mrs Ede, 59 Wharton Street, Retford. Sergt. Ede received the following letter of congratulations: - "A.A.G.'s Office, Third Echelon. Base Alexandria, 1st January 1916. Dear Ede, Accept the heartiest congratulations on your winning of the D.C.M., which appears in today's 'Gazette.' You are the first one in the regiment to be so rewarded. The very best of luck to you in the future. Yours Sincerely, T.P. Thompson, C. Sergt."

In a letter to his mother, Sergt. Ede says: - "We are resting before we entertain the Turks again. It is hot on the deserts, and the sand is a bit troublesome."

Retford Times 3rd March 1916

SHERWOOD RANGERS

AWARD OF A FRENCH MEDAL

The name of Squadron Sergt.-Major T. East, Notts. Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, appeared in the list of British soldiers upon whom the President of the French Republic has bestowed the Medaille Militaire in recognition of distinguished service during the campaign. Sergt.-Major East, who hails from Normanton, will receive the hearty congratulations of his many friends. He is well known at Retford and other markets.

London Gazette 22nd February 1916

Retford Times 10th March 1916

SHERWOOD RANGER'S DISTINCTION

Among the warrant officers upon whom the President of the French Republic has bestowed the decoration "Medaille Militaire," in recognition of distinguished service during the campaign, is Squadron Sergt.-Major Tom East, of Normanton-on-Trent, a member of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry. The gallant yeoman to receive the honour is a son of Mr. W. East, and is a native of Normanton-on-Trent, where prior to the war he carried on the business of horse dealer.

It is more than 15 years ago since he joined the Retford Squadron of the Sherwood Rangers, and is well-known and highly respected by all who during that time have been connected with the regiment. A brilliant horseman, he can ride anything belonging to the equine family, and was always prominent in the regimental sports. When embodied on the outbreak of war he held the rank of sergeant. Since then he has been promoted to squadron sergeant-major.

London Gazette 22nd February 1916

London Gazette 10th March 1916

LANCE-CORPORAL ERNEST GRANTHAM

For conspicuous gallantry when he remained at his post after the other men had been withdrawn, and accounted for an enemy officer and probably others.

London Gazette 10th March 1916

SERGT. J. WORTHINGTON

For consistent good work in exposed and dangerous situations for a period of three months.

London Gazette 10th March 1916

LANCE-CORPORAL (ACTING SERGEANT SHOEMAKER) C.D. TAYLOR

For conspicuous! gallantry at Suvla Bay on 21st and 22nd August 1915. Lance Corporal Taylor and Private Stout went out in front of the line during the day to take water to wounded men. Between them they brought back no less than five wounded men in broad daylight and under heavy fire.

London Gazette 14th March 1916

SERGEANT FRED EDE

For conspicuous gallantry at Suvla (Gallipoli Peninsula), on 28th November 1915. He was with a covering party to men wiring when he saw two Turkish snipers close in front. He charged them at once, bayoneted one, and brought in the other as a prisoner. The latter was fully armed and had his magazine charged.

Retford Times 17th March 1916

DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

DEEDS OF LOCAL RECIPIENTS

Several local names appeared in the list of men who have been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medals, published in the "London Gazette" on Saturday. The following are the acts for which local soldiers were honoured : -

ACCOUNTED FOR ENEMY OFFICER

2255 Lance-Corporal E. Grantham, 1st/8th Battalion, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment, T.F. For conspicuous gallantry when he remained at his post after the other men had been withdrawn, and accounted for an enemy officer and probably others.

Corporal Grantham was for five years an employee of Mr E. Barnforth, baker and confectioner, Carolgate, Retford. He was a member of the Ambulance Brigade, and held the medallion and certificates for first-aid work. He was also a playing member of the Retford Rovers F.C. He enlisted in September 1914 with his friend, Cpl. C. Hartmann.

London Gazette 11th & 28th January & 10 March 1916

HELPING THE WOUNDED

10642 Pte. J. Stout, and 9858 Lance-Corpl. (acting sergeant shoemaker) C.D. Taylor, 6th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. For conspicuous gallantry at Suvla Bay on August 21st and 22nd 1915. Lance Corporal Taylor and Private Stout went out in front of the line during the day to take water to wounded men. Between them they brought back no less than five wounded men in broad daylight and under heavy fire.

Pte. Stout is a native of Worksop and a son of the Late Mr. and Mrs. G.H. Stout, Cheapside, Worksop. He enlisted in September of 1914.

Lance-Corpl. Taylor, when war broke out lived at 23 North Marsh Road, Gainsborough, and was employed on the Great Central Railway as a goods guard. He is a native of Louth, and previous to going to Gainsborough was at Retford. His wife lives at 21 Beaufort Street, Gainsborough. Sergt. Taylor has been slightly wounded on two occasions.

London Gazette 28th January, 1st February & 10th March 1916

Retford Times 17th March 1916

RETFORD MAN'S GALLANTRY CHARGED TURKISH SNIPERS

The act for which Sergt. F. Ede, son of Mrs. Ede, 59 Wharton Street, Retford, was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal was recorded in the "London Gazette" on Monday as follows: - 12770 Acting Sergeant F. Ede, 9th Battalion, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment. For conspicuous gallantry at Suvla (Gallipoli Peninsula), on 28th November 1915. He was with a covering party to men wiring when he saw two Turkish snipers close in front. He charged them at once, bayoneted one, and brought in the other as a prisoner. The latter was fully armed and had his magazine charged.

London Gazette 14th March 1916

Retford Times 14th April 1916

EX-RETFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL BOY A FINE EXPLOIT

Sub-Lieut. Roy Higginbottom, R.N., an old Retford Grammar School boy, has received a special message of congratulations from a Vice-Admiral for a gallant exploit he performed recently. He rescued the men, papers, and instruments of a submarine which was stranded on the coast of Holland. He had to go over a five-mile mine field in a little motor boat in very rough weather. It was only after much begging that his captain would let him go, says "The Retfordian."

Retford Times 21st April 1916

YOUNG RETFORDIAN HONOURED

Congratulations to Pte. W. Holmes, Sherwood Foresters, a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Holmes, 67 Caledonian Road, Retford, upon his being mentioned in despatches for gallantry in the field. He performed the acts of bravery on February 19th and 20th, and since then Pte. Holmes, who is only 18 years of age this month, has received the following from the General commanding the 6th Division: - "Your Commanding Officer and Brigade Commander have informed me that you distinguished yourself on the 19th and 20th Feb. near _____. I have read the report with much pleasure." The brave young lad has spent two birthdays in the trenches.

Retford Times 23rd June 1916

GALLANTRY OF A CLAYWORTH MAN AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL

Corporal Bernard Walker, of the Mechanical Transport, A.S.C., a Clayworth lad, has been awarded the Military Medal. The medal was awarded for gallant conduct during a fierce battle which took place "somewhere in France," while he was serving under Sir H. Rawlinson, G.O.C., 4th Army Corps. Corpl. Walker, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Walker, of Clayworth, joined the Colours at the outbreak of hostilities.

He has taken part in many famous encounters, such as Neuve Chapelle, La Basse, St. Eloi, etc. Previous to the outbreak of the war he was a chauffeur in the Wiseton Motor Garage, and afterwards with Captain Miller Mundy, of Shipley Hall, Derby. He is to be congratulated on his plucky conduct, and his many friends wish him the best of luck and a safe and speedy return

London Gazette 2nd June 1916

Retford Times 23rd June 1916

THE MILITARY MEDAL

RETFORD RECIPIENT

Hearty congratulations to Gunner E. Ashley, a son of Mr. S. Ashley, 78 Thrumpton Lane, Retford, upon his being awarded the new Military Medal. Gunner Ashley, who was formerly a sergeant in another regiment, and was later transferred to the Artillery, was born in Retford 30 years ago. Prior to enlisting he was employed in the Brightside Engineering Works, Sheffield, and had served three years in the Sheffield Artillery. He was educated at Retford National School.



London Gazette 2nd June 1916

Retford Times 30th June 1916

Captain J.W. Walker, K.O.Y.L.I., son of Mr. and Mrs. John Walker, Bank House, Bawtry, has been mentioned in a despatch from Sir Douglas Haig.

Retford Times 21st July 1916

SHERWOOD RANGERS

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

The following officers and men of the Sherwood Rangers were mentioned in a despatch (published in the "London Gazette" last Thursday) for distinguished services rendered during the period of General Sir Chas. Monro's command of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force: -

Major (temporary Lieut-Colonel) H. Thorpe
Second-Lieut. (temporary Lieut.) G.H. Pitt
589 Acting Staff Sergeant-Major T. East
1285 Lance-Sergt. (Acting Sergeant) W. Neppitt
1651 Corporal W. Swann
2168 Private W.H. Smith
1678 Private S. Spring

Among others mentioned in the same despatch were: - Captain and Brevet-Major Lord C.C. Bentinck, D.S.O., Reserve of Officers; and Second-Lieut. E.W.S. Marquis of Hartington, Derby Yeomanry.

London Gazette 16th July 1916

Retford Times 21st July 1916

MISTERTON

Pte. Sam Spring, Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, appeared in a list of men and officers mentioned for “distinguished and gallant services” rendered during the period of General Sir Charles Munro’s command of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

London Gazette 16th July 1916

Retford Times 1st September 1916

MILITARY MEDAL

ANOTHER RETFORDIAN DISTINGUISHED

We are pleased to record that another young Retford soldier has won distinction on the field of battle. This gallant lad is Mr. C.A. Corke, West Yorks. (T.F.), a son of Dr. Cecil A. Corke, Bridgegate, Retford, who has been awarded the Military Medal. Last December he received a card of commendation from the General of the Division for distinguished conduct and bravery on the field. He was wounded last month in the neck and shoulder.

London Gazette 1st September 1916

Retford Times 22nd September 1916

DEATH OF MAJOR THORPE

Official news was received at Coddington Hall, near Newark, on Wednesday night, of the death in action of Major John Somerled Thorpe. He had previously been wounded, and in January was awarded the Military Cross for special services.

The son of the late Colonel Thorpe, of Coddington Hall, he succeeded to the estate some fourteen years ago. He was educated at Eton, and served with the Scots Guards in the Boer War, in which campaign he was decorated for gallantry. When the present war broke out he was in command of the depot of the Notts. Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry at Retford, and was also for a time Recruiting Officer, but he immediately re-joined his old regiment, the Scots Guards. Two other brothers are also on active service – Colonel Harold Thorpe, in command of the Notts. Sherwood Rangers Regiment, and Major Gervase Thorpe, D.S.O., who is on the headquarters staff.

The deceased officer was a nephew of the late Lieut-Colonel Stewart MacDougall of Lunga, Gordon Highlanders, who was killed last July. Major Thorpe was 43 years of age, and is survived by a widow (the daughter of Canon the Hon. Sidney Mead, of Frankleigh, son of the third Earl of Clanwilliam) and young family.

Retford Times 22nd September 1916

BRAVE TERRITORIAL. – Among the gallant Territorials who received a card of commendation from Major-General Stuart-Wortley was Stretcher Bearer H. Gleaden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gleaden, 24 Beehive Street. The card read as follows: - “Your Commanding Officer and Brigade Commander have informed me that you distinguished yourself by conspicuous bravery in the field. I have read the report with much pleasure.”

The act of bravery was performed with great personal risk, he and Pte. F. Boothby tending the wounded under heavy shell fire in a trench that had been blown up. Pte. Gleaden is an old Council School boy, and prior to enlisting worked for Mr. A.C. Illger, painter and decorator.

Retford Times 22nd September 1916

RETFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ANOTHER MILITARY CROSS

We are glad to announce that another Military Cross – making three in all – has been awarded to a former Retford Grammar School pupil, Lieut. Harold Gough, of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, nephew of the headmaster. The award was made to Lieut. Gough for distinguished services as bombing officer in recent trench raids in France. In a personal letter, his Commanding Officer states that the gallant young officer “on his honour three times over. He is a good soldier and extremely popular with all ranks.”

SECOND LIEUTENANT HAROLD GOUGH, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

For conspicuous gallantry and good work on several occasions, notably when he successfully blew a gap in the enemy’s wire with a torpedo previous to a raid. On another occasion he did similar fine work.

London Gazette 26th September 1916

SECOND LIEUTENANT CUTHBERT FLEEMING GRIFFIN, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY, SPECIAL RESERVE

For conspicuous gallantry. When an ammunition waggon and dump were ignited by shell fire, he entered a dug-out close by at great personal risk, and rescued a sick serjeant and two men.

Retford Times 29th September 1916

ROLL OF HONOUR – One of the long list of 65 on the Roll of Honour for Rampton, namely, Mechanician Wm. Beecroft, of the Royal Oak, has been granted a Distinguished Service Medal as one of the heroes of the Jutland Battle. Three years ago he received his Good Conduct Service Medal for 15 years’ service.

Retford Times 29th September 1916

LIEUT. C.F. GRIFFIN

We are pleased to record that Second-Lieut. Cuthbert Fleeming Griffin, of the Royal Field Artillery, third son of the Rev. H.J. and Mrs. Griffin, Littleborough, has been awarded the Military Cross (in the words of the official record) “For conspicuous bravery near Mametz Wood 12th August 1916, when an ammunition waggon and several hundred rounds of German ammunition in an old German dugout were set on fire by shell fire. A sick serjeant and two men remained in a dugout next door rather than face the bursting ammunition, and not realising the danger in remaining where they were. This officer at great personal risk went past the bursting shells and into the dugout, which might have been blown up at any moment, and fetched out the serjeant and men.”

Lieut. Griffin was educated at Christ's Hospital School, Horsham, and he will be remembered by many in Retford by his wearing of a blue coat and yellow stockings. Whilst in Canada, holding an appointment as wireless operator under Government, he obtained a commission in the 24th Grey's Horse, but, anxious to get to the front, he came to England and was transferred to the Royal Field Artillery. He has been in France since January.



Two other brothers are in the Army, viz., Pte. Randle Newcombe Griffin, Canadian Royal Grenadiers, who is in England awaiting orders for the front; and Pte. Basil Walker Griffin, who is in the Public Schools Battalion (Middlesex Regiment). He has served seven months in the trenches, and after a brief stay in England is expecting to return to France this week.

Retford Times 29th September 1916

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES. – Among the officers and men mentioned in a despatch from Sir Archibald Murray, the Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. For their services in the Egyptian fighting are: - Nottinghamshire Yeomanry: Holden, Second-Lieutenant A.F.; Notts. and Derby Mounted Brigade Signal Troop, Moore, No.989, Private E.S.D.

Retford Times 6th October 1916

A GALLANT SOLDIER

RETFORD MILITARY MEDALLIST'S DEATH

It is with pride that we record that another Retfordian, Corpl. Bennett (27), Canadian Infantry Regt., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Bennett, Newton Street, has been awarded the Military Medal, but it is also our painful duty to announce the death of this gallant young N.C.O. Corpl. Bennett, who had been two years in Canada prior to enlistment, was decorated for an act of courage and for displaying great presence of mind, which, says his Colonel, undoubtedly saved from death or injury at least six of his comrades. It is stated that on or about May 1st a party under deceased were firing rifle grenades against the enemy, when owing to a defective cartridge, a live grenade fell in the trench. Corpl. Bennett picked up the deadly missile and threw it over the parapet, where it exploded immediately, doing no injury to any of the men in the trench. His Majesty the King was pleased to acknowledge this act of gallantry by awarding the Military Medal.

Corpl. Bennett did not survive long to wear his decoration. On June 3rd, whilst his battalion was delivering an attack upon the enemy, he fell leading his section of bombers in the advance down a trench, then held by the Germans, but subsequently taken by the Battalion.

Lieut.-Colonel W.A. Griesback, the O.C. of deceased's battalion, pays high tribute to his memory in a letter to Mrs. Bennett. He says: - "Corpl. Bennett was cool, courageous, and energetic. He was highly respected by those under him, and esteemed and trusted by those over him. His death has been a great loss to us. Our only consolation is that he dies as he lived – a very gallant soldier."

London Gazette 8th August 1916

Retford Times 6th October 1916

Corpl. H. Smith, Sherwood Foresters, son of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, formerly of the Angel Inn, Kneesall, has been awarded the Military Cross and promoted on the field to sergeant.

Retford Times 13th October 1916

RETFORD FOOTBALLER HONOURED

The many friends of Pte. George Banbrook, Scout Section, Sherwood Foresters (T.F.), the well-known Retford footballer and cricketer, will be pleased to learn that he has received a card from Major-General E. Thwaites, commanding the North Midland Division, commending him for conspicuous bravery in the field. Prior to enlistment Pte. Banbrook was employed at Messrs. Jenkins and Co., and was a member of the Retford Town Goodwin Charity Cup winning team. The gallant young fellow, who has been in France 16 months, is a son of Mrs. E. Coulthred, 18 Thomas Street, Retford, and is 22 years of age.



Retford Times 3rd November 1916

LOCAL HONOURS

MORE HEROES DECORATED

Again it is our pleasant duty to record the fact that many more local heroes have recently gained decorations for conspicuous gallantry and service on the field of battle.

LIEUT.-COL. E.B. DENISON, M.C., D.S.O.

Major (Temp. Lieut.-Colonel) E.B. Denison, K.R.R.C., son of Colonel H. Denison, late of Eaton Hall, who some time ago was awarded the Military Cross, has now been made a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order in recognition of his gallantry and devotion to duty. Two other sons of Colonel Denison have gained honours in the war. They are Major H. Denison, R.F.A., who has been awarded the D.S.O., and Lieut. H.A. Denison, K.R.R.C., who wears the ribbons of the Military Cross.

Edinburgh Gazette 23rd October 1916

RETFORD MEDALLIST

First-class Signaller, 1st Gloucester Regiment, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in the field when wounded. Since being home at Retford on sick leave, he has received a letter from his signalling sergeant from the Somme front, congratulating him upon being awarded a bar to the above medal, for devotion to duty.

Lance-Corpl. Gorwood has served in the Regular Army for eight years, being stationed at Malta and China, returning from the latter station at the outbreak of hostilities. He has been gassed and twice wounded. He is the youngest of four brothers of Mrs. H. Bowskill, 7 Moorgate, Retford, all of whom are serving with the Regular Army, in France and Salonika.

London Gazette 12th September and 14th November 1916



LANEHAM MILITARY MEDALLIST

Sherwood Foresters, son of Mr G.W. Minnitt, grocer, Rampton, has won the Military Medal for an act of bravery performed on October 1st. The official report says: - "On October 1st 1916, in front of Le Sars, for conspicuous gallantry in collecting and reforming stragglers under heavy fire. He assisted in bringing up bombs to the posts when they were urgently required, and assisted in the defence of a bombing post against the persistent attacks made by the Germans." He writes the following graphic though modest story of his part in the advance: -



"When we moved up to this quarter about a fortnight ago we knew that we were coming with the intention of getting to grips with the Boches. After being in reserve, then supports, we finally went into the assembly trenches for the attack on October 1st. We were all equipped with every necessary article required, and were naturally in a variety of moods. The majority were grave, as, of course, we none of us knew who would come through successfully. As you will see by this letter I did, and I'm thankful for it, for some awful were passed by we who survived.

"Well, excepting the officer who gave the signal to attack, my position was the right-hand man on the right flank. Just here the trenches rose up a small hill, so that I had a splendid view of the whole operations. It was a sight long to remember. Stretching away on y left into the hollow, and the flat ground beyond, was two long lines of trenches about fifty yards between the two. Both lines were packed with men belonging to our battalion. Each man stood there awaiting the signal, bayonet fixed, and from my own observation not a man flinched. When the officer gave the signal it passed along the line like lightning, and like one man they scaled the parapet. It was indeed a grand, if awful sight to see the way the boys went over. Then they swarmed over 'No Man's Land,' some trotting, some walking amidst such a din as you never heard. By Jove! The protecting barrage from our artillery was splendid, and the Germans must have had a bad time.

"It is difficult to explain our emotions as we went across the open. The main thought that was uppermost in my own mind was to get across to our objective as soon as possible. There seemed to be almost a sort of power attracting me there, and it seemed to be a comfort when, having taken the first line, we swarmed over and into the second. The first thing we did was to dig ourselves in, to protect us from the shell-fire, that was inevitable, and with that thought uppermost we worked like niggers. Personally, I bandaged up several of our wounded, and then set to again.

"Our objective was two long lines of trenches lying between two villages, and touching the outskirts of the village of _____. We went over at 3.15p.m., and held our position until relieved the following night, when we waded nearly five hours through mud and blatter to our present rest camp, tired and wet through, but pleased to get back. Now we shall probably get a long rest."

It is interesting that Lance-Corpl. Minnitt arrived in France on that memorable day – the 1st July.
London Gazette 8th December 1916

SERGT.-MAJOR DALEY, D.C.M.

We recently stated that a Retford Good Templar, Sergt. -Major Oxley, Sherwood Foresters, had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. We should have said that it was Sergt. -Major Daley who had gained this honour. This hero has been in France since August 1914, and was wounded in the arm about a year ago. His home is in Moorgate. **UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS UNDER EITHER NAME**

DUNHAM HERO

The many friends of Corp. T Ward, York and Lancs., son of Mr. G.R. Ward, Dunham-on-Trent, will be pleased to hear that he has been decorated with the Military Medal for an act of conspicuous bravery performed on September 29th, somewhere in France. Mr. Ward's four sons are all serving King and country, three being in the Army and one in the Navy.

London Gazette 8th December 1916

Retford Times 10th November 1916

DUNHAM LAD'S GALLANTRY

Corpl. T. Ward, a Dunham lad with the York and Lancasters, who as recorded in our last issue, has gained the Military Medal, received his honour "For conspicuous gallantry on Sept. 29th. During an attack on Destremont Farm, when a machine gun opened at a critical moment, he rushed at it and when quite near threw a bomb, which blew one of the hostile team to pieces. The gun team immediately fled. This timely act prevented great loss of life and greatly added to the success of the operations."

London Gazette 8th December 1916



Retford Times 10th November 1916

A GLORIOUS DEATH

Another Retford man has laid down his life for King and country. This is Sergt. Fred Ede, of the Sherwood Foresters, youngest son of Mrs. Ede, 59 Wharton Street, Retford. She first received the sad news from Sergt. Palmer of the same regiment, formerly a Retford postman, who called upon her whilst on leave three weeks ago. He went into action at the same time that Sergt. Ede was mortally wounded, and they were close friends. On the day of Sergt. Palmer's visit to Mrs. Ede her son was 32 years of age. The deceased soldier was a member of the Notts. Constabulary Force at Mansfield, and joined the Army in the Autumn of 1914. He served in the Dardanelles, and was then transferred to France. His last letter home was written on the day previous to his death. He won the D.C.M. at the Dardanelles



Mrs. Ede has received the following letter from Lieut. S.H. Piper: - "Tonight a parcel addressed to Sergt. Ede. Of this battalion, was brought to me, and it occurred to me that you would like to hear from one of his officers. I very much regret that Sergt. Ede was killed in action on Sept. 26th after taking a very gallant part in the advance that day. I was not with the company that day, but Sergt. Ede was an original member of my platoon, no. 7, of B Company, and received his promotions to lance-corporal and corporal with me. We were together in the action of Aug. 9th last year at Suvla, where he rendered invaluable service to his regiment. When I re-joined the regiment in October last year he was again with me, this time in A Company, and was my best and most reliable N.C.O. At that time, there were few officers with the Company, and in consequence a great deal of responsibility fell on his shoulders, responsibility which he always justified. His D.C.M. was one of the best deserved decorations awarded. In this last action he died like a brave man; after performing most valuable work during the attack he was killed in a hand-to-hand fight with two Germans, both of whom he killed himself. He is a great loss to his company and his regiment, but he has left behind him a record of splendid work and sterling character, which will never be forgotten by any soldier who served with him. The parcel I have issued to his comrades who survived the fight and are still with us in accordance with his wishes. I wish I could have been writing a tribute to him when he was returning at the close of this war, but he died a glorious death as befitted the brave man he was."

Retford Times 10th November 1916

RETFORDIAN'S FINE WORK

PRAISE FROM MAJOR-GENERAL

Pte. C. Whitlam, son of the late Mr. John Whitlam and of Mrs. Whitlam, 81 Whinney Moor Lane, Thrumpton, Retford, has received a card from Major-General D. Campbell, commanding 21st Division, bearing the following message: - "Your Commanding Officer and Brigade Commander have informed me that you distinguished yourself in the field on 26th September 1916. I congratulate you on your fine work."

The gallant soldier, who is 24 years of age, was with the famous 6th Lincolns at the Dardanelles, where he was wounded. Later he was transferred to the 3rd Lincolns and then to the 1st Lincolns, with whom he is now attached.

Pte. Whitlam's brother, George, who was also in the 1st Lincolns, died in Boscombe hospital last November as a result of wounds sustained in action, and was buried in the Retford Cemetery with full military honours. This brave lad who was formerly employed by Mr. David Benson, West Retford, enlisted on Aug. 17th, 1914. He was deeply moved by the pictures of the results of German frightfulness which appeared in the newspapers at the time, and remarked that he could not stay at home while such things were occurring in Belgium. He was at Neuve Chapelle, Hill 60, and Loos, and experienced several narrow escapes. On one occasion his rifle was blown from his hands by a shell, and his only means of defence was his knife.

The eldest brother, Pte. Thomas Whitlam, York and Lancasters, attached to the Durham Light Infantry, had been at the front seven months when he was wounded in the arm. He is now at Sunderland and has just concluded 13 years' service, having joined the colours when he was 16 years of age.

The youngest brother, Trooper H. Whitlam, Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, contracted an illness in Cairo in the early part of 1915 and was sent home. He returned to Salonika, but a fortnight ago arrived in Manchester again having been wounded in the fighting against the Bulgars. He sold a hairdressing business at Askern to enlist in 1914.

London Gazette 14th November 1916

CAPT. GRANVILLE CHARLES FITZHERBERT HARCOURT-VERNON, GRENADIER GUARDS.

For conspicuous gallantry in action. Captains Harcourt-Vernon and Bailey led company out of the trench with great dash. They themselves led by at least 50 yards, and shot many of the enemy with their revolvers. About 60 of the enemy were accounted for, mainly with the bayonet, and 42 made prisoners.

Retford Times 17th November 1916

LOCAL HONOURS

CAPT. G.C.F. HARCOURT VERNON

The act for which Captain Granville C.F. Harcourt Vernon, eldest son of Mr. E.E. Harcourt Vernon, Grove Hall, was awarded the D.S.O is officially recorded as follows: -

Captains Harcourt-Vernon and Bailey led company out of the trench with great dash. They themselves led by at least 50 yards, and shot many of the enemy with their revolvers. About 60 of the enemy were accounted for, mainly with the bayonet, and 42 made prisoners.

London Gazette 14th November 1916

SERGT. W.L. GREEN

It is officially announced that 1212 Sergt. W.L. Green, Notts. and Derbyshire Regt. (T.F.), has gained the Military Medal by bravery in the field. Sergt. Green is son of Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Green, Nelson Street, Retford. He has previously been commended by the Major-General Commanding his Division for an act of gallantry.

London Gazette 10th November 1916

Retford Times 24th November 1916

AWARDED MILITARY CROSS

Lieut. W. Clark, West Riding Regt., son of Mrs. Clark, Mattersey Thorpe, has been awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in France. He is at present in hospital suffering from a severe wound in the right arm, but is progressing satisfactorily. Another son of Mrs. Clark, Pte. J.R. Clark, R.A.M.C., after sixteen months' service in France, has recently been home on sick leave following a severe attack of trench fever.

London Gazette??

Retford Times 24th November 1916

LOCAL HONOURS

PRIVATE JOE BRADLEY

Sergt. Hollis has received a letter from his soldier son at Salonika, stating that Private Joe Bradley, of the 1st Sherwood Rangers has been recommended for the Military Medal. Private Bradley before joining the Colours lived in Moorgate, Retford, and his many friends will be pleased to learn that the gallant soldier's bravery has been officially recognised.

London Gazette 5th January 1917

SERGT. C. MILLER

Sergt. C. Miller, Leicesters, youngest brother of Mrs. Wood, Locksley Cottage, Pennington Walk, Retford, has been awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery in the field. A year ago, he was informed by Major-General Stuart Wortley that his conduct had been brought to the notice of superior authority and apparently the award is the result. The gallant soldier, whose home is at Leicester, is 23 years of age. He enlisted two months after the outbreak of hostilities.

London Gazette 10th November 1916

Retford Times 1st December 1916

HEADON MAN'S BRAVERY

Private J. Booth, Sherwood Foresters, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Booth, Headon Park, Retford, has received a card from Major-General C. Ross, commanding the 6th Division, bearing the following inscription: - "Your Commanding Officer and Brigade Commander have informed me that you distinguished yourself during operations near Ginchy on 15th and 16th September 1916, by carrying important despatches under heavy shell fire. I have read the report with much pleasure." The gallant lad joined the Army at the commencement of the war, and has been in France over two years.



Retford Times 5th January 1917

HONOURS FOR SHERWOOD FORESTERS

Of the recipients of the D.S.O., Lieut-Colonel J.H.W. Becke, of the Notts. and Derbyshire Regiment and R.F.C., is the son of the late Rector of Beckingham, and Lieut.-Colonel J.E. Blackwell, Notts. and Derbyshire Regiment, served in the South African War.

London Gazette 29th December 1916

Retford Times 2nd February 1917

ANOTHER RETFORD D.C.M.

We published in our last issue a further list of honours and promotions from Wednesday's "London Gazette" and amongst the names of Notts. and Derby men who had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal was that of Pte. Frank Snowdin, now of the Manchester Regiment. We have since learned that Pte. Snowdin is a Retford man, and is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Snowdin, 87 Moorgate. As a boy he attended the St. Saviour's School, and after leaving there he was employed for three years by Mr. R. Gibson, keeper of the Municipal buildings. Then he went to the Northern Rubber Works, and in June 1915, joined the 2/8th Sherwood Foresters. He underwent his training at Watford and Dunstable, and served in the Irish Rebellion, where he was wounded twice in the leg.

Pte. Snowdin was one of a number who distinguished themselves and received congratulations from Lieut.-Colonel W. Coape Oates, Commanding the Battalion, for gallantry and coolness in the field. He went with a draft of men last September from Ireland to France, and was transferred to the Manchester Regiment. His mother received a letter from him last Friday. He was at the time of writing out of the trenches enjoying a five weeks' rest. He had fought in the battle on the Somme. He has not been home since last March. Pte. Snowdin is 19 years of age, and his distinction reflects honour upon his native town. His parents have not yet received information as to how their son gained the honour.

London Gazette 23rd January 1917 & 2nd March 1916

Retford Times 2nd February 1916

FOR WAR WORK

DISTINGUSIHED SERVICES FOR OFFICERS AND MEN

The following officers and men attached to the Notts. and Derby Regiment appear in a list, published in a special supplement to the "London Gazette," of those whose names have been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War for distinguished services rendered in connection with the war: -

Capt. And Adjt. F.C. Dietrichhson (killed), Lieut. W. Foster, Lieut.-Col. H.S Hodgkin, D.S.O., Major A.N. Lee, Lieut. (temp. Capt.) J.S.C. Oates, M.C., Lieut.-Col. W.C. Oates, Capt. A.H. Quibell, Capt. (temp. Lieut.-Col.) F. Rayner, 2917 Pte. J.F. Booth, 2454 Co. Sergt.-Major H.C> Dixey (killed), 3426 Acting Corpl. H. Hutchinson, 3615 Pte. G.L. Savidge, 3559 Lance-Corpl. A.E. Wint.

Retford Times 16th February 1917

HONOUR FOR A RETFORD SOLDIER

Sergt. W. Leslie Green, Sherwood Foresters, of Nelson Street, Retford, was presented with the Military Medal for bravery in the field of action at the War Loan meeting in the Town Hall on Friday evening.

The Mayor (Coun. T. Wheeldon, J.P.), in introducing the brave young Sergeant to Col. Phelps, of the 6th Lincolnshire Regiment, Assistant Officer Commanding the 6th Division, said that Sergeant Green, though not a native of Retford, came to the town with his parents when an infant, and had consequently been educated and grown up amongst them.

He started his career as a soldier with the local Territorials some five years ago, and would undoubtedly be known to most of them. He had had nearly two years active service, and though he had been in some tight places, such as Hooze, Thiepval, the Hohenzollern Redoubt, and the Somme, and had had some narrow escapes, he had been fortunate enough to get through with distinction and with scarcely any personal injury. A card from General Stuart Wortley, North Midland Division, British Expeditionary Force, read as follows: - "Your Commanding Officer and Brigade Commander have informed me that you have distinguished yourself by conspicuous bravery in the field. I have read the report with much pleasure, and am bringing your conduct to the notice of superior authority." His Worship went on to say that he understood that Sergt. Green would shortly join the O.T.C. with a view of qualifying himself for a commission, and he was sure that all of them wished him every success in his military duties and hoped that he might continue to advance in his profession. (Applause.)

Colonel Phelps in making the presentation, said he would like to point out how valuable the actions of men like Sergt. Green were. He had got his medal for using great intuition in the field. He believed he was in about as awkward a position as any man could be in. He was in command of a small body of men in an advanced position, when they became aware that the Germans were digging a mine underneath the trench they were in. He was there away from any superior officer, and could not ask what to do. He was not like the Germans, who would have been terrorised, but he immediately used his mother wit and initiative and did the right thing, saving a great many lives. When the Germans had blown in the trench and hoped to take it and hold it, they received a very unpleasant surprise and were beaten and turned out. It was one of those small actions that were constantly going on, but were very valuable. Of the many medals that had been awarded, few had been better earned than this one. He understood that there was still another medal for Sergt. Worthington, another Retford soldier. He congratulated Retford on having more than its share of these honours.

He then pinned the medal on the breast of the gallant young soldier amid the hearty cheers and congratulations of the audience.

London Gazette 2nd March 1917

PRIVATE FRANK SNOWDIN

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Although, twice wounded and in considerable pain, he continued fighting in a most gallant manner.

Retford Times 23rd March 1917

ANOTHER DISTINCTION FOR RETFORD

SERGEANT PERCY W. DOE AWARDED MILITARY MEDAL

Sergt. Percy William Doe, 1/4th Lincolnshire Regt., son of Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Does, of Thrumpton Lane, Retford, has been awarded the Military Medal for distinguished service. The official record of the gallant deed which gained for him this much-coveted distinction is as follows: - On the night of Feb. 15th, at Hannescamps, this N.C.O. was out on patrol under Second-Lieut. J.R. Neave. Two hostile patrols were encountered, which had to be dealt with at the same time.



Both hostile patrols were attacked and driven off in disorder, leaving one dead corpse behind. The success of our patrol was due to a great extent to the cool and clever handling of the Lewis gun by Sergt. Doe. He kept the gun firing as long as was needed in spite of three stoppages occurring, which he skilfully rectified.

This gallant young soldier was educated at the National School, and when he joined up was an apprentice to the engineering at Messrs. Robey's Engineering Works, Lincoln. He is only 20 years of age, and was a member of the Lincoln Territorials before the war. When war was declared he was in camp with his regiment at Bridlington. He went into training at various camps, and went out to France over two years ago, and has seen a lot of hard fighting. On one occasion, many of his section were killed and injured, and on another occasion at Hill 60 he was buried and had a very narrow escape, but so far, he has happily come through without serious injury. He was at home in April last on leave looking remarkably well. He was then a lance-corporal, and has since been made a sergeant. In conveying the news of his success to his parents, the brave young soldier says that the general shook hands with him, and congratulated him as the first with the battalion to win a Military Medal in "No Man's Land." His letter to his parents are always bright and cheerful, and we join with his many friends in congratulating him on his well-earned honours and in wishing him a safe return.

London Gazette 23 March 1917

Retford Times 18th May 1917

LOCAL OFFICERS MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

In the course of a despatch from Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig, a large number of names of officers, ladies, non-commissioned officers, and men serving, or who have served, under his command, are mentioned for gallant services and devotion to duty, including the following: -

Becke, Major (temporary Brigadier General) J.H.W., D.S.O., Notts and Derbyshire Regt.

Burnett-Hitchcock, Brevet-Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General) B.F., D.S.O., Notts and Derbyshire Regt.

Goodman, Lieut.-Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General) G.D., D.S.O., Notts and Derbyshire Regt., Res. Of Officers.

Retford Times 1st June 1917

RETFORD MILITARY MEDALLIST

Sergt. G. Lindley, Royal Garrison Artillery, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Lindley, 25 Sheaf Terrace, Thrumpton Lane, Retford, has been awarded the Military Medal. His many friends will be pleased to hear that his gallantry has been recognised. He has been in France for over two years, and has seen a lot of hard fighting. As a youth, he was apprenticed as a turner at Messrs. Jenkins and Co.'s Works, but later he joined the Sheffield Police Force. He is a man of very fine physique, and stands over six feet in height. In the above photo, he is seen sitting in the centre of the group. **London Gazette 16th October 1917**



Retford Times 1st June 1917

HONOUR FOR RETFORD SOLDIER

On Wednesday morning Mr. and Mrs. A.R. Knowles, 32 Ollerton Road, Retford, received a letter from their son, Pioneer A.E. Knowles, of the Royal Engineers Signalling Department, saying that he has been awarded the Military Medal. The following was attached: - "30893 A.E. Knowles, Pioneers. For conspicuous courage and devotion to duty on May 3rd 1917, during the attack on the chemical works, east of Fampoux, he repeatedly went out in a most fearless manner to repair telephone lines in the open under very heavy shell fire, and it was largely due to his unfailing devotion to duty that telephonic communication between brigade headquarters and battalion commanders was maintained through a very heavily shelled area almost continuously throughout the day. Awarded Military Medal 21st May 1917." Pioneer Knowles, who is 20 years of age, was a scholar at the Council School and at the Wesleyan Sunday School. He served three years' apprenticeship with Mr. G. Cooke, confectioner, Carolgate, but afterwards went on to the Great Northern Railway as a block boy at Leeds and Retford. He joined the army on Jan. 27th 1915, and has served two years in France. His father is signalman at Babworth box on the Great Northern Railway, and is a well-known Wesleyan local preacher in the Retford circuit.

London Gazette 6th July 1917

Retford Times 8th June 1917

KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

MAJOR MONCKTON-ARUNDELL

Included in the list of birthday honours for war service is the name of Major the Hon. George Vere Arundel Monckton-Arundell, only son of Viscount and Viscountess Galway, Serlby Hall. Major Monckton-Arundell has been awarded the D.S.O. It will be remembered that he was mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's dispatch, dated 15th May, for distinguished and gallant service and devotion to duty. He has twice contested Scarborough as the Conservative candidate, and on the last occasion lost by the small majority of 52. He is still the candidate, but it seems probable that one war effect will be the disappearance of the constituency as a compact political entity. Major Monckton-Arundell is possessed of a rich deep voice (says the Sheffield Independent), and one individual who listened to him acknowledge his first defeat said such a man, with such a voice, would have been a fine candidate. **London Gazette 1st June 1917**

Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel J.F. Laycock, D.S.O., Royal Horse Artillery, Wiseton Hall, Retford, has been appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath, third class. He will be remembered in the Sherwood rangers Yeomanry several years ago. He served in the South African War from 1899 to 1901, was twice mentioned in despatches, awarded the Distinguished Service Order, and holds the Queen's Medal and six clasps.

Retford Times 8th June 1917

BOLE

Driver H. Garner, A.S.C., attached to the Field Ambulance, has been awarded two years' good conduct stripes. He enlisted on February 1st 1915, and went abroad in January of the following year. He is a married man, 23 years of age, and the son of the late Mr. C. Garner. Before enlistment he worked as a horseman for Mr. H.W. Foster, farmer, of West Burton. Mrs. Garner lives in the village.

London Gazette 15th June 1917

SERGEANT LOUIS GEORGE STOCKDALE

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He performed the most valuable work, and throughout was of the greatest assistance to his Company Commander. He remained at his post some time after he was wounded, until ordered to go back.

Retford Times 22nd June 1917

RETFORD D.C.M.

Sergeant Louis George Stockdale, Notts. and Derbys, has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal "for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He performed the most valuable work, and throughout was of the greatest assistance to his Company Commander. He remained at his post some time after he was wounded, until ordered to go back." He is the third son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stockdale, Kendle Cottage, Newtown, Retford, and at the present time is at Saltburn Auxiliary Military Hospital. He was wounded in the right side and arm on April 27th in France, and is now making satisfactory progress towards recovery.

Sergt. Stockdale was the first for Major T. Herey Denman to enlist in the 2/8th Sherwood Foresters in September 1914, in the Retford Market Place. He saw much of the fighting in the Irish Rebellion in Dublin, where he was slightly wounded. He is another of the St. Alban's Church choir lads to distinguish himself. He was popular in the circles in which he moved, and his friends will be pleased to hear of his success. Sergt. Stockdale served his apprenticeship with Messrs. Hodson and Hardman printers, Market Place, Retford, and played the violin in the Retford Orchestral Society, conducted by Major T. Herey Denman. Sergt. Stockdale was married last January at Ordsall Church to Miss Roe, Babworth. He has two brothers serving with the colours. His eldest brother, Pte. John Stockdale, is now in France in the R.A.M.C., attached to the East Lancs. Fusiliers, and for eleven months was in Egypt. Sapper Joseph Stockdale, the second brother, is also in France with the Royal Engineers. Sergt. Stockdale's younger brother, Frank, lost his life when the "Royal Edward" was torpedoed in August 1915.



London Gazette 15th June 1917

Retford Times 13th July 1917

The name of Hon. Lieut.-Colonel (temp. Colonel) J.F. Laycock, Wiseton Hall, Bawtry, appears amongst a large number of officers and men mentioned in the despatch from General Sir Archibald Murray, until recently Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Egypt. London Gazette 6th July 1917

London Gazette 17th July 1917

SERGEANT ERNEST CHAPPELL

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He handled his section with great skill and courage, and was instrumental in mopping up enemy dugouts which were becoming a serious menace.

Retford Times 27th July 1917

ANOTHER RETFORD MEDALLIST

PRIVATE J. HATTON, WELSH REGT.

Pte. J. Hatton, son of Mr. Hatton, Cobwell Road, Retford, has been awarded the Military Medal. In a letter to his sister he says, "You asked me how I got the Military Medal. There was a huge mine blown at _____. I rushed in the mine under the very deadly gas and brought a corporal out. I caught a bit of the gas, but it only made my head spin round a bit. But I didn't care as long as I saved the man's life. Of course, he was gassed, but he is getting better now. I could explain it better if I was home." Pte. Hatton, who is a brother of the young soldier who has become famous in the Army as a long-distance runner, joined the colours in November 1915. He went to France in December 1915, and came back wounded in February 1916. He went back to the front in March 1916, and has seen a lot of hard fighting.



London Gazette 17th July 1917

PTE. BANKS AWARDED MILITARY MEDAL

Mr. J.S. Banks, 50 Albert Road, Retford, has received information that his son, Pte. J.H. Banks, has been awarded the Military medal for gallantry and devotion to duty. The information was conveyed to Mr. Banks in the following letter: - "Dear Sir, - I have very great pleasure in writing to tell you that your son, Pte. J.H. Banks, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty by the Army Corps commander. His was a very fine bit of work. He was up in the forward area with another lorry when they came under heavy shell fire. Your son was slightly wounded in the head, but he saw the helpless condition of the other lorry, as both drivers were knocked out, one wounded and the other gassed and shell shock. He left his own lorry with his second driver, and although bleeding very badly, he went forward some distance and turned the other lorry round, got the wounded men on board and a party of other wounded too, and drove the lorry to a dressing station, where his wound was dressed. He was kept there all night, and he drove his lorry back to my park, a distance of 15 miles, next morning. By his coolness and excellent work and just sheer pluck, he undoubtedly saved these men's lives, also the lorry. I wish to congratulate you on your son's very fine action. Yours faithfully, B.S. Leigh, Capt., O.C. No. 23 A.S.C." Mr Banks served nearly eighteen months at the commencement of the war with the 8th Notts. and Derbys on coast defence work, and some time ago was presented with a medal for 20 years' service with the Volunteers. He has another son, Percy, serving with the Royal Flying Corps on Salisbury Plain.

London Gazette 14th September 1917

Retford Times 17th August 1917

MILITARY CROSS FOR RETFORD OFFICER

Lieut. W. Reginald Brooke, who previous to the war was on the staff at Messrs. Beckett and Co.'s Bank, Retford, has been awarded the Military Cross. He was wounded at Messines, and is now making satisfactory progress towards recovery. Lieut. Brooks was educated at Retford Grammar School, and took a keen and active part in the Boy Scout movement.

London Gazette 24th August 1917

SECOND-LIEUTENANT WILLIAM REGINALD BROOKE DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He displayed great courage, coolness and good leadership during an attack, and afterwards when consolidating the position. On his way to the assembly area he led his men with great skill in pitch darkness and under shell fire, keeping them on the move forward at a time when delay would have been serious.

Retford Times 31st August 1917

MILITARY MEDAL FOR MARKHAM LAD

East Markham people are justly proud of their soldier and sailor lads. Pte W. Brett, Stretcher Bearer, 8th Lincolns, writes to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Brett, Church Street, East Markham: - "You will be surprised to hear I have won the Military Medal in the last scrap; am wearing the ribbon now. I was given me for carrying wounded in under heavy artillery fire. I went within a stone's throw of the Germans to fetch two men in. They (the Germans) left us alone until we got nearly back, when they turned the machine guns on us.

It was my duty and my job, and I only did my duty, but it was awful, and I never worked so hard in my life as on the 29th and 30th July 1917, which I shall always remember. I am well in spite of wet and mud. Our artillery and machine gun barrage was the finest ever seen.

It will be remembered that Pte. Brett was home on leave from France a few weeks ago, and was married to Miss Dora Stacey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stacey Of East Markham. Returning to his unit, he went straight into the furnace on the Western Front. We heartily congratulate Pte. Brett and his family on being the first to gain the Military Medal in East Markham, and on having won it in the noble work of rescuing the wounded.

Retford Times 31st August 1917

MILITARY HONOURS FOR RETFORD MAN

Private J. Bradley, Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, son of Mr. Bradley, marine store dealer, Retford, has been awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery in the field and coolness under fire. He was one of a patrol which came under rapid cross-fire at close range, and had to retire. During the retirement a Sergeant horse was killed and the Sergeant disabled. Private Bradley returned, and under a concentrated fire placed the Sergeant on his own horse and led him out of danger. This gallant young soldier worked for his father before the war, and has seen a lot of hard fighting. His many friends will join with us in hearty congratulation on his well-earned honours.

Retford Times 31st August 1917

The circumstances under which Second-Lieut. W. Reginald Brook, son of Mrs. Brook, No. 3 Babworth Road, and nephew of Mr. G. Lister Hopkinson, London Road, gained the Military Cross, are described in the following which appeared in the "London Times" on Monday last: - Second-Lieut. William Reginald Brook, Durham L.I. He displayed great courage, coolness and good leadership during an attack, and afterwards when consolidating the position. On his way to the assembly area he led his men with great skill in pitch darkness and under shell fire, keeping them on the move forward at a time when delay would have been serious.

London Gazette 24th August 1917

Retford Times 14th September 1917

SHERWOOD RANGER MEDALLIST

Sergt -Major Tom East, Normanton-on-Trent, of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, who, as stated some time ago, won the French Medal in the Gallipoli campaign, has just had it presented to him in Egypt. It was

quite a ceremony, and the recipient describes it in a letter to his father, Mr. W. East, Normanton-on-Trent. The latter is dated Aug. 8th, and the writer says: "I had the French medal presented to me yesterday. It was quite a swanky affair. There were a thousand mounted troops form up in a square. A corporal from Gainsborough and myself were in the middle of it. A French general came along. Then a staff officer read out the details of how I won it. General Baillaoud held his sword over me and spoke something in French. Then he touched me on each shoulder with his sword, pinned the medal on my tunic, and kissed me on both cheeks. A cinema operator was taking it all in, and I am going down tomorrow night to see the incident on the pictures." The many friends of Sergt. East congratulate him upon the honour conferred upon him, and wish him further success and a speedy return.



Retford Times 14th September 1917

NORTH WHEATLEY MAN HONoured

MILITARY MEDAL FOR SERGT. ROSE.

Sergt. J.W. Rose, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Rose, of Leeds, and grandson of J. Rose, Ivy House, North Wheatley, has been awarded the Military Medal for repulsing and enemy raid on July 25th. Sergt. Rose is in the Cheshire Regt., and in January of this year was mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's dispatches for services rendered.

London Gazette 14th September 1917

Retford Times 28th September 1917

WISETON

It is pleasing to hear of the success of Sergt. Chappell. He enlisted in August 1914, and has gained promotion to sergeant. He went to Gallipoli, and was wounded in the arm. When he recovered he was sent to France, where, after eighteen months, he was awarded the D.C.M. on 14th May 1917, and for gallant work during the push on July 31st he was awarded the Military Medal. Since these honours have been bestowed the worthy sergeant has had the misfortune to get severely wounded in the ankle and is now in hospital in France. Sergt. Chappell is a native of Gringley, and is the second son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Chappell, of Wiseton. He has displayed great courage, and by winning the D.C.M. and M.M. he has not only honoured himself but the village too. His many friends hope he will soon recover.

London Gazette 17th July 1917

Retford Times 5th October 1917

A BRAVE TRESWELL SOLDIER

Sergt. Walter Hibbard, of the 6th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hibbard, of Treswell, has been awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery at the battle of Messines, and has since then gained another much coveted distinction in the form of a certificate for gallantry on active service. The certificate, which is signed by Major-General G.M. Harper, the Officer Commanding the Division, reads as follows: - "I wish to congratulate Sergt. W. Hibbard, 6th Battalion, Lincs. Regiment, on the gallantry displayed by him on the 24th and 25th July 1917." This gallant young soldier, who is now spending ten days leave from the front, is a native of Treswell. He has been in the Army for nine years. When war broke out he was serving with his regiment in India. He went to France in November 1915, and was wounded in the thigh at Neuve Chapelle, and was in hospital for 14 weeks. He then went to Gallipoli, returning to France in July 1916. He has seen a lot of hard fighting, and we are sure that his many friends join with us in heartily congratulating him on the honours he has won. He has another brother serving, Pte. George Hibbard, 5th Northumberland Fusiliers. He was badly wounded at Thiepval, and is now spending a few days at home with his brother.



London Gazette 25th September 1917

Retford Times 12th October 1917

MILITARY HONOURS FOR POSTMAN

Sergeant G. White, who for several years before the war was postman from Gamston to Bothamsall, has been awarded the Military Medal. He joined up on August 4th 1914, and now wears three wounded stripes, so that he has seen a lot of hard fighting. Writing to his friends at Retford Post Office, he says: - "On 23rd April, I was recommended by Lieut. H.C. Brader and Colonel Davis Eavens, both of the 8th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment, for the following exploits for which I duly received the Military Medal on the 16th August: - 1. Encouraging men into action. 2. Myself and Pte. T. Benton succeeding in getting behind the German lines when the battalion was held up, and shooting forty Germans at a distance of from fifty to one hundred yards. 3. By our fire being so accurate we demoralised the German strong post, and myself and Pte. T. Benton succeeded in capturing eighty prisoners."



SERGT. G. WHITE,
Lincolnshire Regiment

Retford Times 12th October 1917

Pte. W. Priestley, Coldstream Guards, Retford, has been awarded the Military Medal.

Retford Times 9th November 1917

RETFORD SOLDIER FAMILY

WELL-EARNED HONOURS

The sons of Mr. Benjamin Abey, of 15 Beardsall Row, Retford, have shown their patriotism in a manner worthy of the town. Mr. Abey himself was a member for seven years of the Retford Volunteer Corps, and for over 30 years has been associated with the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry in connection with their annual training. He has four sons – Farrier-Sergt. Ben Abey, Royal Engineers; Pte. George Abey, Sherwood Rangers; Private William Abey, Sherwood Foresters; and Corporal John Abey, King's Royal Rifle Corps; and a son-in-law, Sergt.-Major Perron, Sherwood Foresters, serving with the Colours. Two of Mr. Abey's sons have just been awarded military honours for conspicuous bravery on the field of battle.

KING'S CORPORAL

Corpl. Jack Abey, who previous to the war was employed at the Worksop and Retford Brewery, has been made a King's Corporal. In a letter to his father he says: - "I have been made a King's Corporal on the field of battle. I am the happiest lad in the world. It beats all the medals; I am told I am sure to get it. The Captain said to me, 'I have a job wants doing. It has to be done in daylight, and I think you are the lad who can do it if you work to my orders.' I replied, 'Very good sir, I will do it or die.' I set out at 4.30pm on a risky job, and how I got back God only knows. It seems like a dream. Shells were bursting all around and machine gun fire, while snipers were having a go at me. I was successful in getting back with my information. You should have seen the boys and officers shaking my hand and congratulating me."



CORPORAL JOHN ABEY, K.R.R.

MILITARY MEDALLIST

Private William Abey, of the Sherwood Foresters, has been awarded the Military Medal. In a letter to his father on October 19th, he stated that he had been successful in gaining this much-coveted honour, as the Captain read it out on parade and congratulated him. He has since sent the official report, which is as follows: - "Sherwood Foresters. No. 305321 Private William Abey. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as a runner. He carried messages under heavy fire to the front line before communication trenches had been dug, and when no other communication was available. Awarded the Military Medal. E.F. Falkner, Lieut.-Colonel A.A. and Q.M.G. October 17th 1917."

Sergt.-Major Perron, Sherwood Foresters, Mr. Abey's son-in-law, is an old Retford Town football player.

London Gazette 14th December 1917



PRIVATE WILLIAM ABEY

Retford Times 16th November 1917

LANEHAM

Pte. Herbert Walker has distinguished himself on the field of battle. His conspicuous bravery was brought to the notice of the commanding officer, but unfortunately, he has not been granted the Military Medal. He has received the following from the Major-General: "Private Herbert Walker, Durham L.I. Your C.O. has informed me that you have distinguished yourself by conspicuous bravery in the field on 19th and 20th Oct. 1917. I have read the report, and, although promotion and decoration cannot be given in every case, I should like you to know that your gallant action is recognised and how greatly it is appreciated." On the 23rd of October Pte. Walker, in a letter to his mother, Mrs. Thomas Walker, said he hoped to have some good news for her soon, but on Nov. 5th he wrote: - "I have had hard lines about the Military Medal I was recommended for by our captain. The general for this brigade says it is impossible to give everybody a medal – there are so many brave deeds done by our lads." We are sure that Pte. Walker's many friends will join with us in congratulating him on his bravery.

Retford Times 23rd November 1917

DUNHAM SOLDIER'S GALLANTRY

The many friends of Sergt. Thos. Ward, of the York and Lancaster Regt., will join with us in congratulating him upon the honour he has won on the field of battle. The official report of the act which gained for him the D.C.M. is as follows: - "York and Lancaster Regiment. No. 3040 Sergt. Thomas Ward. For conspicuous dash and gallantry during a raid being carried out by a party of two officers and 38 o.r. This N.C.O. was the first to reach the objective where the enemy attempted to make a fight. Sergt. Ward attacked them single-handed, bayonetting three and shooting several more. He set a splendid example to his men, which resulted in fourteen prisoners being captured, and many of the enemy killed, and valuable information obtained. This N.C.O. has frequently undertaken and carried out difficult and dangerous work, and is at all times a splendid example to the other men of his company. Distinguished Conduct Medal. E.F. Falkner. Lt.-Col., A.A. and C.M.G." The Lieut.-Colonel commanding the regiment wrote: - "In sending you herewith the medal ribbon for your D.C>M., I should like to tell you how much your gallant conduct is appreciated, and to offer you my heartiest congratulations."

London Gazette 16th November 1917 & 5th February 1918



Sergeant Thomas Ward

Retford Times 23rd November 1917

SUTTON-ON-TRENT

Corpl. J. Garland, Lincolns, son of Mr. and Mrs. Garland, has been awarded the Military Medal.
London Gazette 25th January 1918

Retford Times 4th January 1918

SGT. EDWARD ELLIS M.M.

Mr John Ellis of Sutton has just received the Military Medal awarded to his son, the late Sergt Edward Ellis who was reported missing after the Battle of the Somme and is now given up by the War Office as dead. "Tel", as his friends familiarly called him, was educated at the village school and was one of its most successful scholars. He had been a member of the church choir from early boyhood, had developed a fine bass voice and was keenly interested in music, occasionally officiating at the church organ. Persevering and upright to a degree, his prospects were the brightest. He had learnt the art of "joinery" from his father and a fine pine screen to the belfry in Sutton church stands as a mark of his workmanship. When war broke out he was one of the first to answer Kitchener's call, Joining the KOYLI although only just 19 years of age. In a few months he was full sergeant and was soon in France.



Early in 1916 he was awarded the Military Medal for bringing in a wounded comrade under heavy fire, one bullet ripping off his stripes and another striking his helmet. This was not made public at the time, Sergt Ellis requesting his family not to mention it, modestly remarking that scores of men did it every day. Then came the advance on the Somme when his regiment was badly cut up and this gallant soldier was reported missing. The only information that could be gleaned was that he was seen making his way towards the rear badly wounded in the head. The people of Sutton will ever remember Sergt E Ellis as one of its heroes who fell in the great fight for Right against "Prussianism". They join with his parents and family in mourning his loss.

Retford Times 4th January 1918

AWARDED D.S.O.

Among local officers who are the recipients of the D.S.O. in the New Year military decorations, in recognition of distinguished services rendered, are the following: -

Captain (acting Lieut.-Col.) the Hon. Gerald William Savile Foljambe, Reserve of Officers, late Oxford and Bucks. L.I.

Major (tempy. Lieut.-Col.) Charles Darby Harvey, Notts. and Derby Regt.

Major Thomas Clifford, Notts. and Derby Regt.

Lieut.-Col. William Coape Oates, Notts. and Derby Regt.

Tempy. Major (acting Lieut.-Col.) Albert Edward Scothern, Notts. and Derby Regt.

Mjr. Philip Huskinson Warwick, Yeomanry.

Major Adrian Barclay Wayte, Notts. and Derby Regt.

Captain Henry Beresford Dennitts Willcox, M.C., Notts. and Derby Regt.

Major Robert James Wordsworth, Notts. and Derby Regt.

Lieut.-Col. the Hon. G. W. F. S. Foljambe, of Ollerton, is a brother of the Earl of Liverpool, M.V.O. He is one of four soldier brothers, three of whom saw service in the Boer War. He received his first commission in February 1898, and is a well-known rider in the North Riding of Yorkshire.

Lieut.-Colonel W.C. Oates is well-known in Notts., having resided for some time at Besthorpe Hall, Newark, and represented the Collingham Division on the Notts. County Council. He is the esteemed Commanding Officer of the 2/8th Sherwood Foresters.

Major P.H. Warwick, of Southwell, is the second son of the late Mr. Richard Huskinson Warwick, and a member of the firm of Messrs. Warwicks and Richardsons Ltd., brewers, of Newark.

Major R.J. Wordsworth, Notts. and Derby Regt., is a son of the late Mr. Wordsworth, Ollerton, agent to Earl Manvers. Major Wordsworth is a former Captain of the Retford Company.

LONDON GAZETTE 25TH JANUARY 1918

SERGEANT DANIEL ROLFE

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During and after an attack he displayed the utmost dash and gallantry, personally accounting for many of the enemy himself. He greatly impressed his men by his coolness and daring, and consolidated his position although three times counterattacked, successfully getting into touch with both flanks. Although deprived of the assistance of a Lewis gun he directed the rifle fire of his men with such precision that many of the enemy were accounted for.

Retford Times 1st February 1918

SOUTH LEVERTON

Sergt. D. Rolfe, Notts. And Derbys, South Leverton, has been awarded the D.C.M. for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During and after an attack he displayed the utmost dash and gallantry, personally accounting for many of the enemy himself. He greatly impressed his men by coolness and daring and consolidated his position although three times counter-attacked, successfully getting into touch with both flanks. Although deprived of the assistance of a Lewis gun he directed the rifle fire of his men with such precision that many of the enemy were accounted for.

London Gazette 25th January 1918

London Gazette 5th February 1918

SERGEANT THOMAS WARD

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a raid on the enemy's trenches. He was the first to reach the objective, where the enemy attempted to make a fight. He attacked them single-handed, bayonetting three and shooting several more. He set a splendid example to his men, which resulted in fourteen prisoners being captured and valuable information obtained.

London Gazette 15th February 1918

REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR JAMES JACKSON

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He showed the greatest coolness and initiative during the sinking of a troopship. He organised the evacuation of the troops so that no lives were lost.

Retford Times 22nd February 1918

GRINGLEY-ON-THE-HILL

Lance-Corpl. Geo. Fletcher, who joined the forces in the autumn of 1916, has since seen a good deal of active service in France. It is with pleasure we announce that this young lad a short time ago greatly distinguished himself for conspicuous bravery under very dangerous and trying circumstances, proving himself to be a hero and a credit to the village. We are given to understand that he will shortly receive the coveted D.C.M. The following explains the circumstances: - "The Major-General commanding 20th Light Division has received a report of the gallant conduct of Lance-Corpl. G. Fletcher at _____ in getting a machine gun into action alone and keeping it firing throughout under heavy machine gun fire, and he wishes to congratulate him on his fine behaviour." Previous to joining up Corpl. Fletcher was a farm servant under Mr. E. Smith.

Retford Times 8th March 1918

RETFORD MEDALLIST

Another Retford soldier, Corpl. E. Oxby, Lincs. Regt., has won the Military Medal. He is the second son of Mr. G. Oxby, 104 Spital Hill, and brother of Mr. C. Oxby, Newtown. The official record of Corpl. Oxby's bravery is as under: - "During the attack at Poelcappelle this N.C.O. showed great coolness and daring in bringing his Stokes' gun into action under heavy machine gun fire. He successfully bombarded a strong point which was holding up the advance, and so enabled the attacking troops to go forward to their objective." Corpl. Oxby was for two years in the employ of Mr. H. West, farmer, Bilby, and joined the Colours in 1915. Another brother, Albert, also with Mr. West, is now in the King's Own Regiment. Corpl. Oxby is now in France, and is expected home any time on leave.

London Gazette 25th January 1918

Retford Times 8th March 1918

SCAFTWORTH

Pte. Charles Kipling has been awarded the Mons Ribbon, being, so far as we know, the first in this district to obtain that distinction. He is the son of Mr. Charles Kipling, Scaftworth, who himself was a soldier in the early Victorian era.

RETFORD TIMES 15TH MARCH 1918

Pte. Jack Carter, of the Coldstream Guards, who has seen active service since the beginning of the war, is still in France. He is the proud holder of the Mons Star and the Military Medal, and has been wounded no fewer than four times. He has been medically treated in three hospitals in France and once in this country. The last occasion he was wounded was at Cambrai. In a gallant charge by the Guards, Pte. Carter was shot through the muscle. His Colonel was killed beside him, and he suffered the loss of another Colonel, a Major, and a Captain. This brave soldier's father brought to our office on Monday for inspection his son's pocket Bible which had been terribly shattered by shrapnel in the battle of Loos. This acted as a protection to the body, and undoubtedly saved his life. Pte. Carter, who was nine years ago employed in the commercial department of this office, is a fine soldier and stands 6ft. 1½

Retford Times 22nd March 1918

HONOURS FOR RETFORD MAN

On Friday afternoon the Mayor (Coun. T. Wheeldon, J.P.), at a meeting in the Council Chamber, Retford, presented Private William Beardsall, of the Notts. and Derby Regiment, with the Military Medal for bravery on the battle field. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Beardsall, Churchgate, and his wife lives at 49 West Street, Retford. Before joining the colours, Pte. Beardsall was a miner at Manton Colliery.

The Mayor said he had been asked to do what Englishmen had taken a pride in doing from time immemorial – that was to confer honours where possible on brave Englishmen. Pte. Beardsall belonged to the Retford Volunteers, and joined the Territorials in May 1915. After training at various places in England he was sent to Ireland with his regiment and served through the Irish disturbances. He returned to England, and after a time went to France. He took part in the fighting on the Somme when the Germans were retiring, and assisted in following them up night and day, taking part in several stiff engagements. He was also in several other engagements, and arrived at Ypres on Sept. 25th 1917. The next day his company was ordered to attack, and when they reached their objective he found that all the officers and N.C.O.'s had been either killed or put out of action, so he took charge of what was left of the company. After they had beaten off four counter attacks Pte. Beardsall was slightly wounded on the 27th, but carried on just the same until relieved on the 28th, and then when coming out of the trenches was badly gassed. It was such men as these that the King and the nation were delighted to honour, and they all ought to thank God that they had in England a sufficiency of such men to stand between them and their enemies. (Applause.) His Majesty the King had been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal for bravery on the field to Pte. Beardsall, and he had great pleasure in handing it to him. The Mayor shook the brave soldier heartily by the hand, and after pinning the medal on his breast said, "You have faithfully, truly, and bravely served your country, and I thank you, and hope you will have health and strength and live long to wear the medal, which you can hand down to those who follow you as a token that you did your duty faithfully and well in the great war." (Applause.)

Pte. Beardsall thanked the Mayor, and said he had only done his duty. He was going back again to the fighting line, and should in the future, as in the past, do his best.

London Gazette 25th January 1918

London Gazette 26th March 1918

Lance-Corporal George Fletcher

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of a machine gun during a heavy enemy counter-attack. When the whole of his team became casualties, he got his gun into action alone, enabling the infantry to take up a position behind him and consolidate it. Though under heavy machine-gun fire, he kept his gun firing throughout the attack with the greatest courage and determination.

Retford Times 29th March 1918

D.C.M. FOR R.S.-M. JACKSON

The many friends in Retford and Worksop of Regimental Sergt.-Major J. Jackson, of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, will be pleased to hear that he has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, and we are sure they will join us in offering him hearty congratulations on his well-deserved honour. The notification appeared in the "London Gazette" of March 1st, and is in the following terms: - 3200 T./R.S.M. J. Jackson, Hrs. (Aldershot) "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He showed the greatest coolness and initiative during the sinking of a troopship. He organised the evacuation of the troops so that no lives were lost."

It may be recalled that the recipient of this honour joined the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry as Regimental Sergeant-Major on April 1st 1910. He attended camps at Salisbury in that year, Welbeck in 1911, Retford in 1912, and Coddington in 1913. He is an excellent shot, and won several prizes in squadron and regimental shooting competitions, both with the rifle and the revolver, and also in connection with the Retford Miniature Rifle Club. R.S.M. Jackson was drill instructor for the Retford Schools, a member of the Retford Orchestral Society, under Major Denman, and of the Borough Orchestra under Mr. John Swannack. After mobilisation in England for nine months, he proceeded with the regiments overseas, seeing active service in Gallipoli, Salonika, and Palestine, leaving the regiment on Dec. 6th last to come home for discharge after 28 years of continuous service. He has now settled at Aldershot.

London Gazette 15th February 1918

Retford Times 12th April 1918

OLD SHERWOOD RANGER

Mr. and Mrs. W. Stockdale, Beech Cottage, Ordsall, received a letter on Thursday evening that their second son, Sergt. Fred. J. Stockdale, Grenadier Guards, had been killed in action, in France, on March 28th. A chaplain, in his letter, described how bravely and nobly he died, and mentioned that he was buried where he fell. The deceased was 34 years of age, and as a boy, was a member of Ordsall Church choir and attended Thrumpton School. He was a groom at West Retford Hall, and joined the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry Regiment. He volunteered for service in the South African war, and was awarded the medal. Then he joined the Regular Army, and had fought for his country since the beginning of the present war. He recently won the Military Medal, and has been mentioned in despatches. He had been home on leave three times, the last in October of 1917. A brother, Pte. Reginald Stockdale, Sherwood Foresters, is in France. Great sympathy is felt for his bereaved parents. **London Gazette 15th March 1918**

Retford Times 26th April 1918

GRINGLEY AND WISETON SOLDIER HONOURED

On the 28th ult., an interesting ceremony took place at Alnwick. The hero of the occasion was Sergt. Ernest Chappell, whose daring bravery on the field was recognised by the presentation to him of two medals. General Sir John Maxwell, in handing the medal to the recipient, stated that he was very proud to make the presentation so gallantly won, and he hoped later to have the honour and pleasure of presenting him with the Belgian Croix de Guerre when it is ready.

The following is the text of what was read out: - "7141 Sergt. E. Chappell, D.C.M. for attacking single-handed a German trench and dugout, killing two and taking the remainder prisoners, thus saving the Infantry a lot of casualties. This N.C.O.'s splendid bravery set an example to all ranks during the attack on Henin, 9th April 1917. Also awarded the M.M. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 31st July 1917, at Ypres." Sergt. E. Chappell is a native of Gringley-on-the-Hill and son of Mr. and Mrs. Chappell, now of Wiseton. He is an old scholar of Beech House School, which is proud of his achievements. His younger brother, Arthur, is at present serving under General Allenby in Palestine. Another native in the person of John Lambert has been twice wounded, and is at present recuperating at an English hospital.

RETFORD TIMES 10TH MAY 1918

Pte. F. Smith, Essex Regt., Retford, has been awarded a bar to his Military Medal.
London Gazette 23rd April 1918

Retford Times 10th May 1918 **NORMANTON-ON-TRENT**

Squadron Sergt.-Major Tom East, of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, son of Mr. W. East, Normanton-on-Trent, has been awarded the D.C.M. for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When his officer was killed on a reconnaissance he took command of the troops, completed the reconnaissance, and made a valuable report. Later, he was of great assistance in repelling an enemy attack. He set a magnificent example of courage and initiative throughout the operations.

London Gazette 9th & 30th April 1918

Retford Times 10th May 1918 **MILITARY MEDALLIST KILLED**

The many friends of Pte William Beardsall of the Notts and Derbys Regt will learn with profound regret that he has paid the great sacrifice. In March last he was presented by the Mayor of Retford (Coun. T Wheeldon, J P) with the Military Medal for bravery on the battlefield, at a public meeting in the council chamber. He returned to France at Easter and passed away in a military hospital from severe shell wounds in the head on May 3rd. He was the son of Mr and Mrs John Beardsall, Churchgate, Retford, 32 years of age, and his wife, before marriage was a Miss Pagley of Albert Road, lives at 49 West Street, Retford. Prior to joining the Army, Pte Beardsall worked at Manton Pit and lived in Worksop.

London Gazette 25th January 1918

Retford Times 17th May 1918 **RETFORD GUNNER HONOURED**

Gunner Ernest Adams, Royal Marines, second son of the late Mr. John Adams and of Mrs. Adams, 11 Carr Road, Retford, has been awarded the French Croix de Guerre, with leaf and diploma. He was called up in the Royal Fleet Reserve on August 3rd 1914, and ten days afterwards he was sent to the defence of Ostend, after which he was in the operations at Antwerp. He then served through the whole Gallipoli campaign, afterwards doing duty as a search light operator.

He was then sent to one of H.M. transports as senior gunner, on which he is now serving. Gunner Adams now has the Mons ribbon, the Meritorious certificate and the French Croix de Guerre. Sapper Geo. Adams, the youngest son of Mrs. Adams, is serving in France with the Royal Engineers.

London Gazette 18th December 1917

Retford Times 7th June 1918

RETFORD MILITARY MEDALLIST KILLED

“Mrs Beardsall 49, West Street, Retford, received official information of the death of her husband Private William Beardsall, Sherwood Foresters (2/8th before transfer to 6th Leicesters) In June 1918 the widow received two very sympathetic letters from the Matron of the hospital where he died in France in which she stated that he was wounded in the head on May 1st when coming out of the trenches and died on May 3rd.



In March 1918 Private Beardsall was presented by the Mayor of Retford with the Military Medal for bravery in the field. He was the son of Mr & Mrs John Beardsall Churchgate, Retford and prior to joining the war worked at Manton pit and lived in Worksop.

The announcement in the London Gazette of 29th January 1918 that Pte Beardsall was to receive the Military Medal for his actions during the attack on St Julien in September 1917 read “For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty, during the attack at St Julien between 26th and 28th September 1917. When all the Officers and NCO’s of the platoon had become casualties Private Beardsall with splendid initiative took command of his platoon and led them forward to their objective.”

London Gazette 25th January 1918

Retford Times 24th May 1918

SUTTON

Pte. A. Locking, of the Duke of Wellington’s Regiment, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Locking, of Sutton Road, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in bringing in wounded during an enemy attack on the Western front. He joined up about 2½ years ago, and has been in France 18 months. He is 21 years of age, and had been employed by Mr. H. Wilson, Beauchief Abbey, and by Mr. H. Huntsman, Lound Hall. He has two other brothers serving in Palestine. The official report is as follows: - “Pte. A. Locking. I beg to inform you that the Corps Commander, under authority granted by His Majesty the King, has awarded you the Military Medal for the following act of gallantry: For work as stretcher bearer during operations from March 25th to March 31st, particularly during a heavy enemy attack on the afternoon of the 28th March, in bringing in wounded from the front line to aid post under heavy shelling, machine gun and rifle fire, with absolute disregard of personal danger.”

London Gazette 26th August 1918

RETFORD TIMES 31ST MAY 1918

LANEHAM

It is with great pleasure that we report that Second-Lieut. B.A. Minnitt, M.M., 18th King's Royal Rifles, has been awarded another decoration, viz., the Military Cross. The following is a copy of the letter received by him from the Officer Commanding: - "I wish to place on record my appreciation of your gallantry and devotion to duty on March 24th 1918, when you assisted in organising a counter-attack when troops on the right were forced back. During the whole retirement, you were untiring in your efforts to reorganise scattered troops from various regiments. (Signed) Sydney Lawford, Major-General."

London Gazette 16th September 1918

RETFORD TIMES 14TH JUNE 1918

GRINGLEY-ON-THE-HILL

Our readers will be pleased to hear that Sec.-Lieut. Drakes, R.E., youngest son of Mr. & Mrs. Drakes, of the Manse House has been awarded the Military Cross. He joined the army in November 1914, and has seen a lot of active service. He first went to the Dardanelles with the Notts. and Derby Mounted Brigade, and while there took part in some very heavy fighting, after which he was attached to the Egyptian Western Frontier Force and went through the campaign against the Senussi. From there he was sent to France, where for the last nine months he has been Brigade Signalling Officer. He was severely wounded in April last, being shot in the left leg and after six weeks hospital treatment is now at home on leave where he is progressing most satisfactorily. It will be remembered that his eldest brother Lieut. Percy W. Drakes of the Canadian Mounted Rifles, was killed in action in the earlier stages of the war.

London Gazette 31st May 1918

Retford Times 21st June 1918

RETFORD D.C.M.

News has been received that the D.C.M. has been awarded to Sergt. C.R. Pettinger, R.E., youngest son of Mr. W. Pettinger, music teacher, Cobwell Road, Retford, serving in France, for displaying great courage and devotion to duty when in a position of grave danger and responsibility in the battle of March 21st. Sgt. Pettinger was employed by the G.N. Railway at Doncaster. At the outbreak

of war, he was one of the first to volunteer for the Army. The management declined to give the necessary sanction, but he continued to agitate until he joined the Doncaster Own. By hard work and study, he was made sergeant in eight months from entering upon his training. Before leaving for France he wrote to his parents: - "The great day of the greatest test the world has ever known is near, I shall meet the Huns with a brave heart and a smiling face, and the same British pluck that my countrymen are showing every day and every hour when facing great odds." Sergt. Pettinger was through the Cambrai and also the battles on March 21st and 27th. He has been congratulated on the above decoration by the General Brigade Major and a number of other officers and friends.

London Gazette 17th June & 18th October 1918



Retford Times 28th June 1918

Pte. G.W. Highfield, Lincoln Regiment, of 6 Churchgate, Retford, has received the King's Certificate with a promise that a medal will follow. He enlisted on Sept. 3rd 1909, and left the Army after a years' service. He re-joined on August 5th 1914, and went to France the following November. In March 1915, he was wounded at St. Jean, and a second time in September 1916. He was discharged from the Army as a result of the wounds on June 9th 1917. He is a married man, 27 years of age, and previous to the war was employed at Warsop on the G.C.R. as a shunter. He is now working as a postman at Retford.

London Gazette 23rd July 1918

SECOND-LIEUTENANT WILLIAM LESLIE GREEN

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during several days of severe fighting. Early in the operations he took command of his company, being the only officer left. On one occasion, his right flank being exposed, the enemy worked round and captured his right post. He immediately led a counterattack and regained the post. Later, the enemy gained a footing in another post. He at once crept up and, single-handed, bombed them out, accounting for several of the enemy. By his most courageous example he kept his company together in a very exposed position.

Retford Times 26th July 1918

Sergt. H.R King, South Staffs., Bawtry, has had the honour of the Croix de Guerre conferred upon him by the King of the Belgians.

London Gazette 9th July 1918

Retford Times 2nd August 1918

RETFORD OFFICER HONOURED

BOMBED ENEMY SINGLE-HANDED

In a further list of officers to whom the Military Cross has been awarded appears the name of Second-Lieut. William Leslie Green, Notts. and Derby Regt., for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during several days of severe fighting. Early in the operations he took command of his company, being the only officer left. On one occasion, his right flank being exposed, the enemy worked round and captured his right post. He immediately led a counter-attack and regained the post. Later, the enemy gained a footing in another post. He at once crept up, and, single-handed, bombed them out, accounting for several of the enemy. By his most courageous example he kept his company together in a very exposed position.

London Gazette 23rd July 1918

RETFORD TIMES 2ND AUGUST 1918

LANEHAM

Sergeant F.C. Handley, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Handley, has been awarded the Military Medal for bravery on the field.

London Gazette 10th October 1918

RETFORD TIMES 23RD AUGUST 1918

SOUTH LEVERTON

News has been received that Sergt. Dan Rolfe has been wounded for the third time, and is now in hospital in Leicester. He is wounded in the left hand and foot. He was awarded the D.C.M. a few months ago.

RETFORD TIMES 23RD AUGUST 1918

GROVE MILITARY MEDALLIST

Pte. F.A. Foulkes, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Foulkes, of Grove, has been awarded the Military Medal, the certificate reading: "His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Military Medal for bravery in the field to Private F.A. Foulkes." It will be remembered that Pte. F.A. Foulkes left Liverpool for Australia on October 4th 1913, on the S.S. Zealandie, a vessel specially chartered by the Australian Government. There were 1,100 emigrants, and it made the record long non-stop voyage in 35 days 12 hours, reaching Freemantle on November 8th. Pte. F.A. Foulkes joined up on December 1915, and left Freemantle on the troop ship April 17th 1916, landing at Plymouth on June 11th (after staying in Egypt a fortnight on the way). He finished his training at Andover, Hants, and landed with the troops in France in September 1916. He has been in the line since that time with the exception of five days' leave in October 1917. His many friends will join us in congratulating him on his well-earned honours.

London Gazette 14th December 1917, 26th June 1918

His only brother, Pte. E.A. Foulkes, of the West Yorks. Regt., made the supreme sacrifice on November 22nd 1917, in the Cambrai battle. He was greatly respected by all who knew him. The father of these brave boys has been coachman at Grove Hall for 30 years.



PTE. F. A. FOULKES



PTE. E.A. Foulkes

Retford Times 6th September 1918

MILITARY MEDALS

Following is a concluding list of local men who have been awarded the Military Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal: -

Military Medals: - 11446, Pte. E. Smith, Leicesters (Retford)

London Gazette 26th August 1918;

252114, Sgt. W. Why, Essex (Creswell); 5002, Lance-Corpl. J. Young, Notts. and Derbys (Newark).

Meritorious Service Medal: - 27701, Sgt. A.A. Cobb, Notts. and Derbys (Retford)

London Gazette 26th August 1918.

London Gazette 13th September 1918

LIEUTENANT GEORGE FREDERICK HOPKINSON

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During a fortnight's operations of a most arduous description, his services in maintaining communication between brigade headquarters and the front line were most valuable, and his example of fine personal courage and coolness under heavy fire, worthy of the highest praise. On one occasion, having been unable to find the battalion to whom he was to convey orders for retirement, he returned a second time, but encountered an enemy patrol, who opened a heavy fire. Eluding the patrol, he came across one of our wounded, whom he helped to get on to his motor-cycle and managed to convey back to safety, though all the time being subjected to heavy fire.

London Gazette 16th September 1918

TEMPORARY SECOND LIEUTENANT BERNARD ARTHUR MINNITT, M.M.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He assisted in organising a counterattack when troops on his right were forced back. Throughout operations he was untiring in energy and zeal.

Retford Times 4th October 1918

In the "London Gazette" supplement of September 27th, amongst those who have won the Military Cross we notice the following reference to the eldest son of Mr. G. Lister Hopkinson, of Moorland, Retford: - "Lieut. G.F. Hopkinson, N. Staff. R. Spec. Res. - For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During a fortnight's operations of a most arduous description, his services in maintaining communication between brigade headquarters and the front line were most valuable, and his example of fine personal courage and coolness under heavy fire, worthy of the highest praise. On one occasion, having been unable to find the battalion to whom he was to convey orders for retirement, he returned a second time, but encountered an enemy patrol, who opened a heavy fire. Eluding the patrol, he came across one of our wounded, whom he helped to get on to his motor-cycle and managed to convey back to safety, though all the time being subjected to heavy fire.

Actually in London Gazette 13th September 1918 NOT 27th September

RETFORD TIMES 4TH OCTOBER 1918

WAR HONOURS

Military Medals for bravery have been awarded among others to the following: - Lance-Corpl. H. Millhouse, Notts. and Derbys (Retford). Lance-Corpl. B. Bell, R.E. (Retford). Pte. R Clark, M.M., Retford, has been awarded a second bar to his Military Medal.

All in London Gazette 10th September 1918.

Sergt. W.R.J. Wistow, Hussars, eldest son of Mrs. Wistow, Century Road, Retford, has been awarded the D.C.M. The official record says: - "When the objective had been reached, he displayed great ability and courage in collecting and reorganising his men and in the consolidation of the position. His services were of the utmost value at a time when there was only one officer left with the squadron." Sergt. Wistow is the holder of the Meritorious Medal. He is now in hospital at Newark recovering from a wound in the forearm. He has been in France since the beginning of the war, and has only once been wounded. Lance-Corpl. A.C. Wistow, a younger brother is also in France. The other two brothers are serving in the Navy, viz., First Class Petty Officer H. A. Wistow (now on leave) and First Class Petty Officer L.A. Wistow.

London Gazette 30th August 1918

Mr. and Mrs. W. Bowman, East Markham, have received the pleasing news that their second son, Lance-Corol. A.E. Bowman, Sherwoods, has distinguished himself by conspicuous bravery in the field, and has also been awarded the Military Medal. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman's first and second sons joined the Sherwood rangers during the second year of the war, and on being sent to the Western Front were transferred to the Sherwood Foresters. This is the second Military Medal won by Markham lads.

London Gazette 10th September 1918

LONDON GAZETTE 18TH OCTOBER 1918

SERGEANT CYRIL RUSSELL PETTINGER

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as senior serjeant in brigade signal section. He has continuously done very good work in maintaining communications and has shown marked ability and courage.

Retford Times 8th November 1918

RETFORD SOLDIER FAMILY

CORPL. ABY PRESENTED WITH M.M.

Corpl. W. Aby, Sherwood Foresters, fourth son of Mr. Ben Aby, Beardsall Row, Grove Street, Retford, was on Friday presented at the Picture House by the Mayor (Coun. T. Wheeldon) with the Military Medal. Among those present were two of his brothers, viz., Farrier-Sergeant Ben Aby, on leave from France, who has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal; and Lance-Corporal George Aby, Aldershot, who went with the Sherwood Rangers to Salonika.

The other brother, Sergt. Jack Aby, who is in Cardiff Hospital, received the distinguished honour of being made a King's Corporal, and has been wounded four times. This makes four brothers who have served their King and country with bravery and distinction.



The Mayor, who was received with applause, remarked that Retford had sent many brave lads to the front, and during his two years of Mayoralty he had pinned several medals upon their breasts. He had felt proud to do so, believing that they were real boys of the bulldog breed, and that they served their country faithfully and well. (Applause.) He could not have taken part in any more pleasing ceremony than that honouring one of Retford's brave lads. He read the following extract from the "London Gazette" December 17th 1917: - "His Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Military Medal for bravery in the field to Pte. W. Aby." Corpl. Aby, who was born in Retford, joined the Retford Territorials in March 1914. After serving with the Sherwood Foresters at various places, he went to France in May 1916. He was sent from France to Warrington Hospital, where he underwent an operation in August following. Upon recovery, he returned to France in June 1917, and took part in several heavy engagements at Ypres during the great push of Passchendaele Ridge. Lieut-Colonel Valkner wrote: - "Pte. Aby displayed conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as a runner. He carried messages under heavy fire to the front line before communication trenches had been dug when no other means of communication was available." In November 1917, Corpl. Aby was dispatched to the Italian Front on the Piave River, and then took up a position on Asiago Plateau, where the Sherwood Foresters greatly distinguished themselves. He returned to France in September last, and took part in the great offensive on the Somme.

London Gazette 14th December 1917

Retford Times 8th November 1918

HONOURS FOR RETFORD SOLDIER

The friends of Pte. Geo. Cook, Sherwood Foresters, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Cook, Little Lane, Retford, will be pleased to learn that he has been recommended for bravery in the field. Pte. Cook was unfortunately wounded on Oct. 3rd and is now in hospital at Lincoln. The news that he had been recommended for bravery was conveyed to his parents in a letter from Capt. J.W. White in which he said "I am writing to you to inform you that your son Pte. Cook was wounded on Oct. 3rd and that he was recommended on that date for bravery in the field and I have much pleasure in enclosing the card recording the fact from the Divisional Commander. I wish him the best of luck and a speedy recovery.

The card from the General Commanding the 46th North Midland Division states: - "Your Commanding Officer and Brigade Commander have informed me that you have distinguished yourself by conspicuous bravery in the field. I have read the report with much pleasure." Previous to enlisting on Nov. 16th 1915, Pte. Cook was employed at the Northern Rubber Works. Mr. and Mrs. Cook have two other sons in the Army, Lance-Corpl. Alfred Cook, machine gun section, Royal Scots, is wounded and in the hospital at Loughborough, and Pte. Sam Cook, Sherwood Foresters.

London Gazette 13th May 1919

Retford Times 8th November 1918

LANEHAM MEDALLIST DEAD

The sad news has been received of the death of Sergt F.C. Handley, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J Handley, Laneham, who passed away in hospital in France. He was recovering from wounds when pneumonia supervened, from which he died on October 16th. A short time ago this gallant soldier won the Military medal for bravery on the field. This is the second son Mr and Mrs Handley have lost in the war, and heartfelt sympathy is extended to them in their sorrow. They have two other sons serving, Pte A Handley in France with the M.G.C and Pte J Handley, R.M.L.I. who has been wounded and is in hospital in Essex. Sergt Handley before joining up in January 1915, was employed by Mr Wakefield, farmer of Kirklington. He leaves a widow and three young sons, with whom much sympathy is felt.

London Gazette 10th October 1918



Retford Times 29th November 1918

RANSKILL

Sergt. Hubert King, son of the Station Master has been awarded the Military Medal.

London Gazette 13th May 1919

London Gazette 3rd December 1918

PRIVATE G.H. ELSTON

While his company was holding a position he volunteered for patrol duty, during the course of which a party of the enemy was encountered. He at once rushed at them and captured ten single-handed. He invariably displayed great courage and devotion to duty.

London Gazette 3rd December 1918

SERGEANT R. CLARK, M.M., 7TH BN., LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his platoon splendidly, and single-handed rushed a machine-gun post, bayoneting two and shooting the remaining four of the team. Shortly afterwards, while reorganising his platoon to repel a bombing attack, he was wounded. He showed splendid courage and marked ability to command.

Retford Times 6th December 1918

GALLANT SHERWOODS

RETFORD SERGEANT AWARDED M.M.

On the Sunday following the signing of the Armistice the 8th Sherwood Foresters took part in a very impressive church parade of the whole Division. The massed bands of the division played, and the hymns included "Fight the good fight, " For all the saints" (in memory of those of the Division who had fallen in the war), and "Now thank we all our God."

During the course of a striking sermon the senior Chaplain stated that they had met to formally and publicly offer heartfelt thanks to Almighty God for helping the Division to assist in obtaining what they had come out to France to attain decisive victory. This had not been done without loss by death, but they knew that through God their brothers, who had gone to Him before them, and they were one, and they thought of them with affection and with gratitude. The great lesson taught us by this war was that we were all brothers, to help one another, and brothers in every sense of the word, and it was because we had forgotten this fact that war had come. From now henceforth the fatherhood of God, and the Brotherhood of Man, must be living reality, and a great and grave responsibility would lay upon us all in this matter. Afterwards medal ribbons for gallantry in the field were presented by the Divisional General, and subsequently the whole Division marched past him.

Among the awards to officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the 1st-8th Sherwood Foresters for gallantry in the field was the presentation of the Military Medal to Sergt. Fred Illger, Hind Street, Retford. In September 1918, at Bellenglise, Sergt. F. Illger showed great devotion to duty. He showed absolute disregard for his personal safety by constantly rallying and re-organising his platoon. During the final stage of the attack he rushed forward in the face of heavy machine gun fire, showing remarkable courage and tenacity.

Sergt. Fred Illger was, with his brother Walter, amongst the first to answer Lord Kitchener's call for men, joining the Sherwood Rangers, and both brothers worked their way to Sergeant. On going out to France with the Sherwood Foresters, to which regiment they were transferred, on draft last year, both had to revert to corporal, but they soon got back to their old rank for efficient trench work. Sergt. Illger did finely with his platoon in the attacks in which they battalion have taken part. His brother was, unfortunately, seriously wounded in one of these attacks, and is now in Swansea Hospital. Sergt. Fred Illger had previously been a member of the Retford Territorial Company, and Sergt. Walter Illger had years ago served in the Sherwood Rangers Regiment. They are brothers of Mr. A.C. Illger, house decorator, London Road, Retford.

London Gazette 13th May 1919

Retford Times 6th December 1918

MISSION

Gunner Wm. Laister, R.F.A., has been awarded the Military Medal. During an engagement at St. Vaast Wood, St. Pierre, France, he gallantly dug out one of his comrades who was completely buried in a shell hole. While doing so he was severely gassed.

London Gazette 13th May 1919

Retford Times 13th December 1918

RAMPTON

Sergt. Albert H. Norman has gained the Military Medal for bravery on the field. During stubborn fighting near Glissinges, he was the only N.C.O. left, all other officers being either killed or wounded, he carried on. Another Rampton soldier, Sergt. Herbert E. Wood, eldest son of Mr. A.E. Wood, has gained the Military Medal on October 17th, for bravery in front of the enemy. Sergt. Wood joined the 2nd Batt. King's Royal Rifles in Kitchener's Army, and was wounded in June 1916. Previously he was on the clerical staff at Messrs. John Brown and Co.'s, Ltd., Sheffield.

London Gazette 22nd July 1919

Retford Times 20th December 1918

HONOUR FOR RETFORD MAN

The French Croix du Guerre has been presented to Sergt. C. Pettinger by the French Military Staff, for bravery and good work during the last few days of the war. A few months ago Sergt. Pettinger was presented with the D.C.M. for conspicuous bravery when in great danger, and shortly afterwards was recommended for a bar for keeping communications open when in an isolated position of grave danger. He was also recommended for a commission in the R.E.'s, and had already passed his preliminary examinations in France with honour, and would have been undergoing his training in England had it not been for the signing of the armistice. He is a life abstainer, an efficient musician, and before the war took a leading part in local concerts, playing the clarinet and oboe. His success in the Army has been remarkable. Both his brothers are serving with the Colours. Sapper W. Pettinger, who was gassed in the German offensive of March, and is attached to the Guards Division, and Pte. B.O. Pettinger is in the West Yorks. Sergt. Pettinger is a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Pettinger, Cobwell Road, Retford.

London Gazette 17th June 1919

Retford Times 27th December 1918

RETFORD MEDALLISTS

Sergt. G. Skelton, 1/8th Sherwood Foresters, second son of Lance-Corpl. G. Skelton, of the Retford Volunteer Corps, has been awarded the Military Medal for having shown great initiative, on September 29th, during the advance at Bellenglise, in the placing and action of machine guns and sections under his control. He was instrumental in inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy, and showed great devotion to duty and resource. Sergt. Skelton was one of the Colour party who came over from France to take away the Colours of the Regiment from Newark Parish Church. He was presented with the Military Medal on a Divisional parade in France at the same time as Sergt. F. Illger, Hind Street, Retford; Pte. W. Westnidge, Grove Street, Retford; London Gazette 13th May 1919, and Pte. F. Green, Dominie Cross, Retford.

London Gazette 22nd July 1919

Retford Times 27th December 1918

BAWTRY

The Military Cross has been awarded to Sec.-Lieut. W. Pennington, son of Mr. W. Pennington, auctioneer, Bawtry. Although only 20 years of age, he has been in the Army over three years, joining the R.N.D., from which he was transferred to the 2nd Bedfordshire Regiment. The distinction was granted for gallantry in the great advance on the Hindenburg line.

London Gazette 3rd October 1919

Retford Times 3rd January 1919

WAR HONOURS

The list of honours for valuable services rendered in connection with the military operations in France and Flanders, contains the names of the following local officers, who have been awarded the Military Cross: -

Lieut. (Acting Capt.) F.W. Hipkins, 1/6th Batt., Notts and Derbys (T.F.)
 Lieut. (Temp. Capt.) E.A. Huskisson, 1/3rd Batt., Notts and Derbys (T.F.)
 5360 C.S.M. (Acting R.S.M.) C. Martin, D.C.M., 1st Batt., Notts and Derbys
 Lieut. (Acting Capt.) J.B. Raymond, 3/6th Batt., East Surreys (T.F), attd. 1/5th Batt. Notts and Derbys (T.F.)
 Lieut. (Temp. Major) G.N. Royce, Notts and Derbys (T.F.), attd. 42nd Batt., M.G.C.
 Lieut. (Temp. Capt.) J.L. Ward, Notts and Derbys

AWARDED THE D.C.M.

71043 Sergt. J.H.J. Burgess, 9th Batt., Notts and Derbys (Newark)
 240284 Lce.-Cpl. J. Cooper, 1/5th Batt., Notts and Derbys (T.F.) (New Mills)
 14930 Sergt. G. Elliott, 12th Batt., Notts and Derbys (Chesterfield)
 53700 Cpl. B. Harrison, 11th Batt., Durham L.I. (Worksop)
 203482 Sergt. C. Loomes, 1/5th Batt. Notts and Derbys (T.F.) (Chesterfield)
 121612 Sergt. J. Naughton, 185th Tu. Co., R.E. (Clowne)
 L/19851 Sergt. G.H. Pointon, D/155th Bde., R.F.A. (Retford)
 L/19872 Sergt. S. Rowe, D/161st Bde., R.F.A. (Tickhill)
 305097 C.S.M. W. Stokes, 1/8th Batt. Notts and Derbys (T.F.) (Old Basford)
 121032 Lce.Cpl. (A. 2nd Cpl.) G.H. Woolley, 89th Field Co., R.E. (Worksop)

Retford Times 17th January 1919

D.C.M. FOR RETFORD SOLDIER

Sergt. J.A. Denman, of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, son of Mr. A. Denman, of Ordsall, has been awarded the D.C.M. for bravery on the field of battle. This gallant young soldier joined the Yeomanry in 1913, and was called up with his regiment in 1914. He got his promotion before leaving England in the spring of 1915 for Egypt. From Egypt, he went to the Dardanelles and took part in the great charge at Chocolate Hill, when Col. Millbank and Lieut. Stockdale were killed. He then went back to Egypt and was transferred to Salonika, and saw some heavy fighting and many deaths from fever and other causes. On the way back to Egypt the "Crestian" on which he was travelling, was torpedoed and sunk.

He has taken part in all the fighting right up to the arrival of his regiment at the Bagdad railway. In the taking of Jerusalem he was severely wounded in the abdomen, and on his recovery he joined his regiment again in January 1918, and took part in the big push to the finish. It is believed that he has received his medal for some work done on the Jordan in collecting stretcher bearers and seeing the wounded away under very heavy fire. The Rangers are now attached to the 5th Indian Cavalry Regiment, and doing outpost work against the Turks who have not yet given in. The regiment have received hearty congratulations from General Allenby, who says they are as good horsemen as fighters. Sergt. Denman's father is an old sergeant of the 4th Notts. Regiment. He has 26 years of service to his credit, and holds the long service medal, with permission to wear his uniform.

London Gazette 31st December 1918 & 2nd September 1919



Retford Times 17th January 1919

SHERWOOD RANGER WINS THE D.C.M.

The many friends and acquaintances in the Trentside villages of Sergt. W.F. Hethershaw, North Leverton, 1/1st Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, will be pleased to hear of the award of the D.C.M. to him for Egyptian war services. Sergt. Hethershaw, who is 29 years of age, joined the Sherwood Rangers Regiment on February 5th 1908. He was promoted lance-corporal in 1912, corporal in 1913, and sergeant in 1914. Previous to the war Sergt. Hethershaw was joint tenant with his elder brother of the Beckingham farm, under Mr. G.H. Fox, Retford, and was the third generation of tenant of the same holding. Sergt. Hethershaw re-joined the regiment at mobilisation, and after the winter's training sailed with his regiment to the East. He has gone through the war without a scratch, although in the thick of it two horses have been shot under him. He has been offered a commission, but refused, preferring to stick to the old regiment, of which there are not many veterans left.

His elder brother, S.E. Hethershaw, King's Own Scottish Borderers, joint tenant of the farm, joined up under Lord Derby's scheme in November 1915. After training in England and Ireland, he went to France two years ago, and has also come through safely. The farm is being carried on for them by their father, Mr. W.E. Hethershaw, Habbleshthorpe Farm, North Leverton. The gallant soldiers are grandsons of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hethershaw, Wharton's Charity Farm, Beckingham, members of a very old Bole family, and all are pleased to know that Sergt Hethershaw has tried to keep up the name of the Sherwood Rangers Regiment and our old Trentside.

London Gazette 31st December 1918, 2nd September 1919

Retford Times 24th January 1919

ANOTHER RETFORD D.C.M.

Another Retford boy has gained the distinction of having won the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The recipient is Corpl. Frank Salmon, 2nd Queen's Regiment, Royal West Surreys. The presentation was made to him in Italy on the 5th of the month, but no particulars have been received of the circumstances under which the honour was gained. He simply mentions the bare fact in a letter to his mother, Mrs. G. Fletcher, 47 London Road, Retford. Corpl. Salmon says he is feeling grand, and is looking forward to coming to Retford before many weeks. He is the third son of the late Mr. E.G. Salmon, of the G.N. Telegraph Department, Retford, and is an old scholar of the Retford Baptist Sunday School. Corpl. Salmon was in partnership in grocery business in London, and joined the Army in the early part of 1916. He was sent to France after three months training, and after his last visit to Retford a year ago last October was transferred to Italy. He has been through some severe engagements, and has come through them all without a scratch. His youngest brother is Trooper Cecil Salmon, 1st Life Guards, Machine Gun Section. He is now on the German frontier, but expects to have to go into hospital. He was in hospital in England for a year suffering from skin disease.

London Gazette 31st December 1918 & 2nd September 1919

Retford Times 24th January 1919

RANSKILL TRIPLE HERO

As previously reported, Sergt. Hubert R. King, of the Hertfordshire Regiment, son of the Station Master at Ranskill, has been awarded the D.C.M. for gallantry during the closing stages of the war. He had previously won the Belgian Croix de Guerre and the Military Medal. Sir Fredk. Milner had written to Mr. King offering him his hearty congratulations on his son's triple honours for gallantry in the field. "I hope," says Sir Frederick, "you will soon have him back safe and sound. Ranskill will, I know, make him welcome on his return. Long may he live to enjoy his honours."

London Gazette 11th March & 28th November 1919

Retford Times 24th January 1919

A BRAVE RETFORD SOLDIER

AWARDED MILITARY MEDAL AND A BAR TO MEDAL

The many friends of Private Frank Green, "C" Company Stretcher Bearers, 1/8th Sherwood Foresters, son of Mr. J. W. Green, 20 Wellington Street, Retford, will be pleased to learn that the double honour of a Military Medal and the Bar to the medal have been awarded to him for bravery and devotion to duty. Previous to joining the Colours in November 1914, this brave young soldier was employed at Messrs. Bradshaw and Son's foundry. He is a married man with one child, and his home is in Dominie Cross Road, Retford. He has a brother, Sergt. George Green, in the Tank Corps., and both have served in France for nearly four years.



The circumstances under which Private F. Green won his honours were as follows: - At Bellenglise on the 29th September 1918, this man showed utter disregard of danger and fearlessness. He saved many lives by his untiring efforts in attending wounded men and rendering first aid, although exposed to persistent machine gun fire. When his Company Commander became a casualty, he attended him under intense machine gun fire, and brought him to cover. He showed exceptional gallantry throughout the whole attack. Awarded Military Medal.

At the attack on Ramicourt and Montbrehain on 3rd October 1918, this man, a stretcher bearer, showed great bravery and devotion to duty in dressing wounded continuously throughout the action. He carried on his good work although at one time exposed to hostile artillery fire firing at point blank range. Private Green was previously recommended for devotion to duty at Bellenglise on September 29th 1918. Awarded Bar to Military Medal.
London Gazette 22nd July 1919

Retford Times 31st January 1919

NORTH WHEATLEY

Pte. G.H. Elston, 1st Batt. Lincs. Regiment, son of Mr. G. Elston, Gainsborough, and grandson of Mr. R.E. Elston, of this village, has been awarded the D.C.M. He is married and 29 years of age. He has been in the Army 11 years, four of which have been spent in India.

London Gazette 3rd December 1918

Retford Times 31st January 1919

HONOUR FOR YOUNG OFFICER

We are pleased to note that Lieut. N. Dickinson, grandson of the late Mr. George Harrison, Northfield House, Everton, has won the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He joined the Army in 1915, and gained a commission in the Royal Engineers, and has been in some very severe fighting on several different parts of the Western front. He went out to France with the 38th Division (better known as the Welsh Dragoons), and his complete disregard of danger inspired all ranks in many critical positions. Lieut. Dickinson was wounded on October 8th whilst attacking the Hindenburg line about 10 miles south of Cambrai. The Welsh troops started off in the dark through a strongly wired line outside Villers-Outreaux, and had to go through an earth and wired fortress several acres in extent. They were forced back with machine gun fire. It was then that Lieut. Dickinson and his men pushed forward, took a wood called Ar-----, with prisoners, and held on until reinforcements came to relieve them, and after hard fighting, steadily the gallant men drove the Germans from their cover into the open, and they broke, and rapid progress was made. Lieut. Dickinson carried on throughout the day with great difficulty as he was wounded in the foot before daybreak, and was laid up for some time after. He is still serving with the troops out in France, and we wish him good health and the best of luck in the future.

Retford Times 21st February 1919

The Military Medal has been won by the late Corpl. W. Gleadon, and Pte. C. Keyworth, Beardsall Row, 6th Batt. Leicester Regt.

London Gazette 7th February 1919

Retford Times 28th February 1919

A CLARBOROUGH HERO

MILITARY MEDALLIST'S DEATH

By the passing under very sad and painful circumstances, Clarbrough has to add another name to its Roll of Honour in the person of Corpl. John Hatch, M.M., Royal Engineers. On joining up in 1916 he was attached to the 68th H.A.G. Headquarters staff, France, and subsequently was transferred to the No. 1 Boring Section, Royal Engineers, to look after the boring tackle for the supply of water for the men and horses. He was a fine fellow of 6 feet, and a splendid athlete. Prior to joining the Army, he was in charge of the boring machinery for coal at Cottam and Leverton. He was held in the very highest esteem by his employers. On April 23rd 1916, he married at Clarbrough Parish Church, Miss Betsy A. Stevenson, the only daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Stevenson, at which Mr. W. Kyle, one of the principals of the firm for whom he worked at Cottam, came down from Glasgow to the ceremony.

During boring operations in France he was often surrounded by dangers on all sides, but managed to escape, but after retiring to rest in a hut with seven other comrades on September 25th, a shell burst in their midst which killed two of them outright and injured the other six. Corpl. Hatch was wounded in 10 places, some of the wounds being of frightful character. Regardless of himself, Corpl. Hatch attended as well as he was able to the injuries of his comrades, and for this devotion to duty he was awarded the Military Medal. He had to get to the doctors two miles away as best he could. On his arrival there the doctors found that he was in a terrible plight, and as soon as really practicable he was sent home to England to the military hospital at Colchester, where he remained for nearly five months. Although he received the very best treatment at the hands of the medical staff, and the most careful and kind nursing, he passed away on Friday Feb. 14th. The interment took place last Thursday at Coppall, near Chorley, Lancs., the place of his birth and childhood. The deceased was accorded a military funeral, and was buried in the same grave as his father.

London Gazette 11th March 1919

Retford Times 28th February 1919

The King has been graciously pleased to confer the honour of the D.C.M. upon Corpl. Frank Salmon, for devotion to duty and services rendered in the field. Some ago months his General presented him with a Card of Honour on which it said how greatly his good service in the field were appreciated by all. He is spending a few days with his mother, Mrs. Fletcher, 10 Alma Road.

London Gazette 31st December 1918, 2nd September 1919

Retford Times 28th February 1919

STURTON-LE-STEEPLE

We understand that the Military Cross has been awarded to Captain F. Goacher for conspicuous services rendered in the late fighting.

London Gazette 1st April & 9th December 1919

Retford Times 4th April 1919

RANBY

The Military Medal awarded to the late Sergt. Joseph Peatfield for bravery on the field has been received by his mother, Mrs Peatfield, of this village

London Gazette 21st January 1919

Retford Times 9th May 1919

RETFORD POSTMAN HERO

D.C.M. PRESENTED BY THE MAYOR

At the monthly meeting of the Town Council, the Mayor (Coun. V. Sydney Woods) presented Sergt. G. White, of the 8th Lincolnshire Regt., with the Distinguished Conduct Medal. Sergt. White was accompanied by the Postmaster, Mr. Barnes, and the following colleagues on the staff of the Post Office: - Mr. Mason, acting overseer, an ex-sergeant I the Royal Engineers; Mr. Scarborough, head postman; Mr. W.H. Barnes, ex-company sergeant-major, Sherwood rangers; Mr. J.H. Palmer, ex-sergeant 9th Batt. Sherwood Foresters; Mr. Dobney, ex-1st-class Air Mechanic Royal Air Force; Mr. F. Cook, ex-private 10th Notts. and Derbys.

At one time Sergt. White was letter carrier at Gamston, and he is well known and highly respected in the Retford district. It was very gratifying to his many friends to know that he had been awarded a medal for bravery on the battle field.

In making the presentation, the Mayor said he had a pleasing duty to perform in handing to Sergt. White the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He had been unable to obtain from the War Office the particulars of the acts of gallantry for which the medal was awarded, but they would be published in the "Gazette" later. He had, however, obtained a few details of the recommendation of Colonel Hicks and Capt. Garvey, and he felt sure the Council would like to hear of the brave deeds this gallant soldier had done.

The report was as follows: - (1) Attending to wounded under heavy gun and machine gun fire. (2) Taking charge of two platoons when all officers had become casualties, the two platoons distinguishing themselves under his command, capturing 50 prisoners and 14 machine guns, himself capturing 20 prisoners out of cellars and ruined buildings. (3) It was through this gallant N.C.O. that their objective was gained. By disregarding danger he inspired the men throughout the engagement that the few left held on to the important position won until relieved. These records, continued the Mayor, written by his commanding officer, would show that Sergt. White was a credit to the regiment and to the town. They all gladly welcomed him back again and congratulated him on his escape from such terrible dangers. He was glad to see present a deputation from the Post Office to see the medal presented. Pinning the medal to Sergt. White's tunic, the Mayor said: "I congratulate you in the name of the Council and of the town on the distinguished way you have rendered to our country, and hope you will have a long life to enjoy the honour you have so well earned."

London Gazette 9th January 1920

Retford Times 6th June 1919

C. S.-M. G. Turnbull, Retford, 49th Div. Train Royal Army Service Corps, has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

London Gazette 30th May 1919

Retford Times 11th July 1919

MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES

Trooper J.S. Cox, of the 1st Derbyshire Yeomanry, son of Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Cox, of 7 Thomas Street, Retford, who has recently arrived home from Macedonia, has been mentioned in despatches from Sir G.F. Milne, Commander-in-chief of the British Salonika Forces for distinguished and gallant services during the period from October 1st 1918 to March 1st 1919. Prior to joining the Army in 1915 he was the manager of W.H. Smith and Sons' bookstall, Mablethorpe.

London Gazette 3rd June 1919

Retford Times 1st August 1919

MILITARY AWARDS

The King has approved the following awards: -

Bar to the Military Medal – Pte. F. Green, M.M., 8th Notts. and Derbys, Retford

London Gazette 22nd July 1919

Military Medal – Pte. J.W. Sutton, 9th Batt. Notts. and Derbys, Retford

London Gazette 22nd July 1919

Retford Times 29th August 1919

NORTH LEVERTON N.C.O. "MENTIONED"

Mrs. Wilkinson, North Leverton, has just received a copy of the following letter concerning her son, who is still serving with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force: -

General Headquarters, 25th June 1919.

To the D.A.P.M, 75th Division.

The supplement to the "London Gazette," dated 3rd June 1919, contains despatch by General E.H.H. Allenby, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., dated 5th March 1919, in which the name of the undermentioned N.C.O. has been mentioned for his valuable service in connection with the campaign of the E.E.F. Please convey to him my grateful thanks for the good he has done for his King and country.

Shoeing-Smith Corporal Wilkinson, Military Mounted Police.

This name will appear in all police orders.

T.E. ROBINS, col., D.P.M., E.F.F. G.H.Q., 26th June 1919.

London Gazette 3rd June 1919

London Gazette 2nd September 1919

SERGEANT JAMES ARTHUR DENMAN

(EGYPT)

On 2nd May, 1918, when an attack was made on the enemy's positions near Howeij Bridge, a retirement was ordered, and he was instructed to collect wounded and organise stretcher parties. This work he carried out most admirably, despite heavy enemy shell fire.

London Gazette 2nd September 1919

SERGEANT W.F. HETHERSHAW

(EGYPT)

He was in charge of a troop throughout the operations, and carried out the tasks allotted to him with great skill, especially on 2nd. May 1918, during' the withdrawal from Howeij Bridge, when his troop was employed as rear-guard. It was largely due to his coolness, skill and energy that all the wounded were safely brought away, despite heavy shelling.

London Gazette 2nd September 1919

SERGEANT G.H. POINTON

He was for nearly two years Signalling N.C.O. During this time, he displayed great gallantry and devotion to duty on numberless occasions, personally mending lines under hostile shell fire. In the past year, he has been No. 1 of a sub-section, in which capacity he has done excellent work, at all times setting a high example to his detachment, frequently under shell fire.

London Gazette 2nd September 1919

CORPORAL FRANK SALMON

He has been in charge of the water-carts and water supply generally for the battalion since April 1917. He has never missed bringing up a supply whenever possible, whether active operations were in progress or not. Frequently in France he has had to face heavy shelling and barrage fire to reach his destination, and again latterly in Italy he has performed his duties in face of considerable danger. He works extraordinarily hard, and never rests till his work is finished. His work and energy have been of the highest order at all times.

London Gazette 28th November 1919

SERGEANT HUBERT KING

During an attack on railway near Ghissignies on 26th October 1918, he gallantly led his platoon under heavy machine-gun fire and occupied an enemy post. Later, when the platoon on his left was subjected to very heavy enfilade machine-gun and trench mortar fire, he held on to his position and covered their withdrawal. It was only due to his tenacity and courage under heavy fire that the flank platoon was successfully extricated. Throughout he set a very fine example to his men.

London Gazette 9th December 1919

CAPTAIN FREDERICK GOACHER

On 27th September 1918, at Moeuvres, he displayed most gallant leadership, capturing: more than 200 prisoners in the Canal. He then reorganised and, pushing on, led his company to their objective. He inspired his men by his utter disregard of danger, and continued to set a splendid example until wounded a short while afterwards.

London Gazette 9th January 1920

SERGEANT G. WHITE

For marked gallantry on 4th November 1918, north of Ghissignies. When the leading wave of the attacking unit had become casualties, and his two officers casualties, he urged the men forward, until a Tank arrived.

London Gazette 24th February 1920

LANCE-CORPORAL C.G. LAW

For conspicuous gallantry on the 24th September 1918, during the -attack on Haifa, He was in charge of the advanced patrol of the squadron approaching KarmelJheim, when heavy rifle fire was opened from a garden. He at once attacked, took seven prisoners by himself, and by his dash and initiative greatly assisted the advance of both squadrons, so that enemy resistance was quickly overcome.

London Gazette 24th February 1920

SERGEANT J. R. LAW

During operations at Cambrai and Auchy, south of La Baesee Canal, in September 1918, he repeatedly led patrols and obtained much useful information-. His disregard -for personal danger and his keenness were a great example to the men 'under his command.

Retford Times 21st July 1916

MISTERTON

Pte. Sam Spring, Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, appeared in a list of men and officers mentioned for “distinguished and gallant services” rendered during the period of General Sir Charles Munro’s command of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

London Gazette 16th July 1916

Retford Times 1st September 1916

MILITARY MEDAL

ANOTHER RETFORDIAN DISTINGUISHED

We are pleased to record that another young Retford soldier has won distinction on the field of battle. This gallant lad is Mr. C.A. Corke, West Yorks. (T.F.), a son of Dr. Cecil A. Corke, Bridgegate, Retford, who has been awarded the Military Medal. Last December he received a card of commendation from the General of the Division for distinguished conduct and bravery on the field. He was wounded last month in the neck and shoulder.

London Gazette 1st September 1916

Retford Times 22nd September 1916

DEATH OF MAJOR THORPE

Official news was received at Coddington Hall, near Newark, on Wednesday night, of the death in action of Major John Somerled Thorpe. He had previously been wounded, and in January was awarded the Military Cross for special services.

The son of the late Colonel Thorpe, of Coddington Hall, he succeeded to the estate some fourteen years ago. He was educated at Eton, and served with the Scots Guards in the Boer War, in which campaign he was decorated for gallantry. When the present war broke out he was in command of the depot of the Notts. Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry at Retford, and was also for a time Recruiting Officer, but he immediately re-joined his old regiment, the Scots Guards. Two other brothers are also on active service – Colonel Harold Thorpe, in command of the Notts. Sherwood Rangers Regiment, and Major Gervase Thorpe, D.S.O., who is on the headquarters staff.

The deceased officer was a nephew of the late Lieut-Colonel Stewart MacDougall of Lunga, Gordon Highlanders, who was killed last July. Major Thorpe was 43 years of age, and is survived by a widow (the daughter of Canon the Hon. Sidney Mead, of Frankleigh, son of the third Earl of Clanwilliam) and young family.

Retford Times 22nd September 1916

BRAVE TERRITORIAL. – Among the gallant Territorials who received a card of commendation from Major-General Stuart-Wortley was Stretcher Bearer H. Gleaden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gleaden, 24 Beehive Street. The card read as follows: - “Your Commanding Officer and Brigade Commander have informed me that you distinguished yourself by conspicuous bravery in the field. I have read the report with much pleasure.”