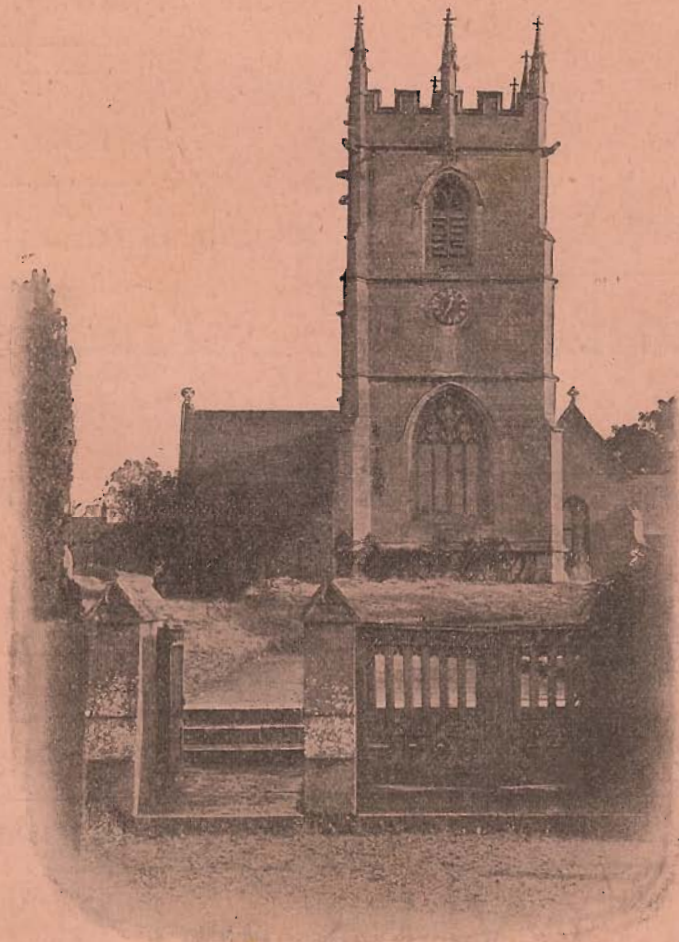


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Parochial Magazine.



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THE WAR.

Mr. Mason has been officially informed that it must now be assumed that his son, Lt. G. Mason, was killed in action on May 20, and reports from private sources unhappily go to prove that this brave young officer made the great sacrifice on the date in question.

On August 29 a memorial service was held at Wickhamford which was attended by a large and representative congregation. The Vicar officiated and the Burial Service was feelingly rendered, the choir being augmented by the senior members of the Badsey choir.

The Vicar, in the course of a short address, said that whilst they were heroes all who laid down their lives for others, letters from France which he had been privileged to read showed that Lt. Mason had established a very special claim to the title. His C.S.M. wrote of him: "You will observe that I have used the words 'gallant' and 'brave.' I have seen active service since August 1914, being a 'regular' soldier, but never have I come across an officer more devoted to his men, or more respected by his men. Whenever his name was mentioned it was always with respect and admiration." The Vicar told how, on the night of February 27/28, his senior being put out of action by a bullet just as they went over the parapet, Lt. Mason led his men through two lines of German trenches to the third line, and then carried a wounded man back to safety and was reported by his C.O. and Brigade Commander as having "distinguished himself in the field." There could be little doubt that it was in consequence of the initiative and bravery which he displayed on that occasion that he was chosen for the difficult and dangerous task which cost him his life—a task described by his C.S.M. as "one that called for pluck, endurance and capable leadership." "It will be some consolation to you," the C.S.M. went on to say, "to know that Lt. Mason was selected for this duty, and I am positive, had he been spared to us, his good work would have been recognised and his name would have appeared amongst those awarded honours." And it was a double con-

solation when they knew him, as they did, for a good Christian, sincere in his religion but without any parade, devout in his communions (he would often walk over to Badsey for Holy Communion because his work at home prevented him communicating at Wickhamford), devoted to parents and home and altogether lovable. We must many of us feel that our lives were purchased all too dearly at the price of such lives as these. The Vicar concluded with the last two verses of Laurence Housman's fine lines, entitled "The Winners":

"O lads, dear lads, who were loyal and true,
The worst of the fight was borne by you,
So the word shall go to cottage and hall,
Our battles are won by the men that fall.

When peace dawns over the countryside,
Our thanks shall be to the lads that died.
O quiet hearts, can you hear us tell
How peace was won by the men that fell?

R.I.P.

News has also been received of the death of Pte. W. Hanks, Worcestershire Regt., late of Aldington and formerly of Badsey, who was killed in action in France on July 5. Pte. Hanks was one of those who volunteered for service before the introduction of "Groups" and "Classes," having enlisted in September 1915, and had been in France about a year. Much sympathy is felt for his wife and child and aged father.—R.I.P.

Trooper Cecil G. Agg has been wounded by shrapnel in the left arm and wrist. He is in the Barrington War Hospital, Shrewsbury, and is going on well.

Pte. Albert Huxley, who has been severely wounded in the neck and shoulder, is in hospital in France.

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Corpl. E. Moore, son of Mr. S. Moore, of Aldington, has been admitted into hospital in France, sick. The nature of his illness is not stated.

Gunner J. T. Harris, R.F.A., was rather badly kicked in the face by a horse to which he was attending on August 16. Happily the effects were not so serious as at first anticipated and he hopes to be home soon.

Congratulations to Major C. E. Sladden on his "mention" in the recent dispatch from Mesopotamia, and also to Major Hepburn on his promotion.

We have also to congratulate Sergt. Walter Moore, brother of Corpl. Moore mentioned above, on being awarded the Parchment Certificate for Gallant Conduct and Devotion to Duty. The certificate states: "He was one of a patrol which entered the German lines near Hooge, east of Ypres, on the night of 27/28 July, 1917. The patrol obtained valuable information, but was eventually discovered by the enemy who opened heavy machine gun and rifle fire. Sergt. Moore showed great coolness and presence of mind and was of greatest assistance to the patrol commander in collecting and guiding the patrol back to our lines." Sergt. Moore is accumulating honours quickly, for he has since been awarded the D.C.M. for meritorious conduct in the subsequent advance on July 31. Mr. and Mrs. Moore have every reason to be proud of their sons, three of whom are serving in the army and two in the navy.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Prizes for Attendance and Conduct have been awarded at Wickhamford to the following:—Albert Agg, Alfred Turner, Edith Agg, Alice Cox, Lily Bennett, Clara Turner, and Ivy Bennett.

Mr. G. E. Jones has presented 12 copies of Helmore's Burial Service to Badsey Church.

THE REGISTERS.

WICKHAMFORD—BAPTISM.

Aug. 12.—Kathleen Emily Mary Field.

OFFERINGS FOR THE MONTH.

Badsey. Wickhamford.

| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------|---------|----|-----|---------|----|----|
| Aug. 2. Church Expenses ... | 1 | | 3 | | | |
| „ 5. Sick and Needy ... | 2 | | | 3 | | 1 |
| „ Church Expenses ... | 16 | | 6½ | 7 | | 7 |
| „ 6. Sick and Needy ... | 1 | | 3 | | | |
| „ 9. Church Expenses ... | 1 | | 3 | | | |
| „ 12. Sick and Needy ... | 2 | | 11 | | | |
| „ Church Expenses ... | 1 | | 1 8 | 11 | | 0½ |
| „ 16. Church Expenses ... | 1 | | 3 | | | |
| „ 19. Sick and Needy ... | 5 | | 9 | 3 | | 0 |
| „ Church Expenses ... | 12 | | 2½ | 10 | | 1 |
| „ 23. Church Expenses ... | 1 | | 3 | | | |
| „ 26. Sick and Needy ... | 2 | | 6 | | | |
| „ Church Expenses ... | 1 | | 2 8 | 8 | | 10 |
| „ 29. Sick and Needy ... | | | | 3 | | 6 |
| „ 30. Church Expenses ... | 1 | | 3 | | | |
| | £4 13 9 | | | £2 7 1½ | | |