

OUR VILLAGE
AND THE
GREAT WAR

The Story of Shepherdswell

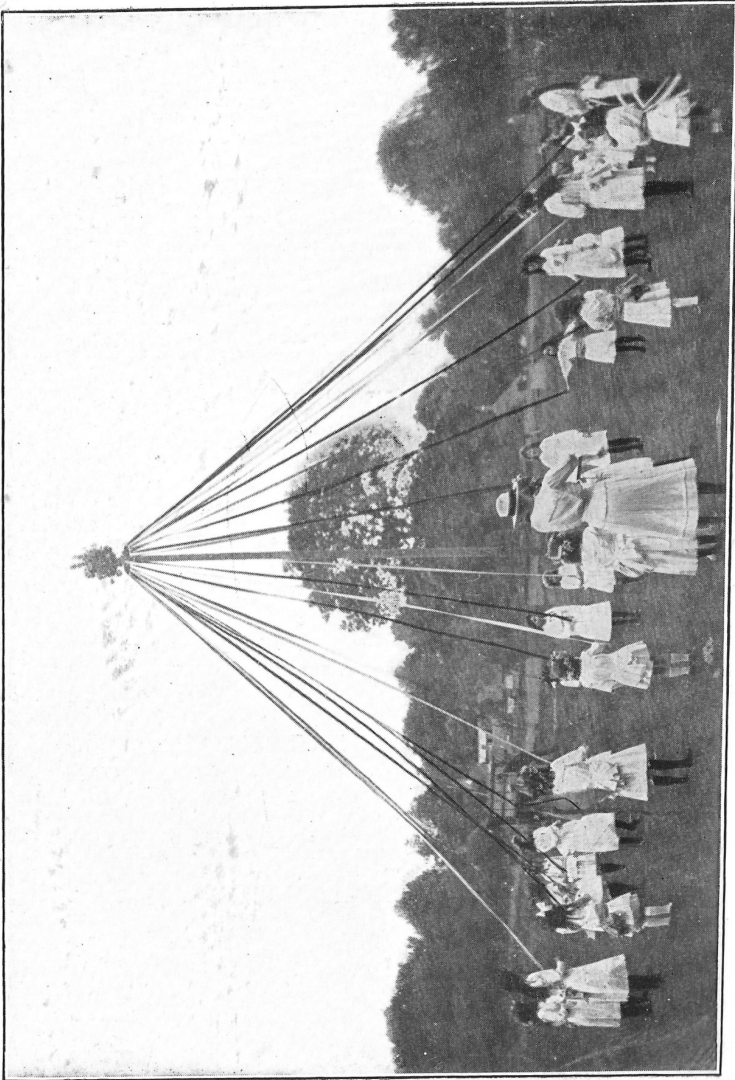
BY
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PEACE CELEBRATIONS IN TRUE OLD ENGLISH FASHION.

PREFACE.

I have been asked to write this little record of the part taken by our village in the Great War. It is not a story of the great deeds of mighty heroes, but of humble service honestly done amidst many difficulties, great anxiety and much personal suffering. It is just the story of one out of hundreds of such small villages on the edge of the Great War. Every effort has been made by the help of many friends to ensure accuracy in the list of names given of those who went on active service; but if mistakes have been made I hope that they will be forgiven and the little book welcomed as a souvenir of our share in the great fight for freedom.

RICHARD HIGGS.

COXHILL FARM,
SHEPHERDSWELL,
DOVER.

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Our Village and the Great War.

Chapter I.: When War Broke Out.

WE were just an ordinary quiet country village in July, 1914, and were all busy in our various ways. We had recently erected our new Parish Hall and plans for its usefulness were being gradually developed and extended. We had also a Parish Meeting to discuss the all important question of protection from fire and had made all sorts of proposals in connection with it. In fact, we were going on each in our own way with the ordinary joys and troubles of the rest of the great world.

In the last days of July there was a most successful Garden Fête in Admiral Sir Ernest Rice's grounds, in aid of funds for the Village Hall, and I well remember standing there and watching some dark clouds gradually rising in the East and wondering if we should have a thunderstorm and whether those clouds meant anything more than a storm of wind and rain. As I thought of the gathering hosts of armed men on the Continent and the news which came through every day I wondered if we were on the edge of the awful storm of war.

And then it broke. The terrible first days of war struck the world dumb with horror and amazement. All sorts of wild rumours floated about and passed from one to another. Along the main Canterbury and Dover road there was

a continual stream of traffic by night and day, and as we listened to it we wondered what was to happen next. We carefully considered our position in relation to the coast and wondered how we should fare if invasion came. Later on we had our share of the great Russian rumour. That mighty host of Russians which was to overwhelm Germany on the Western Front had passed through our station in the darkness of the night and rumbling troop trains were heard by many a light and nervous sleeper.

Then one day came the news of the destruction of the three cruisers, *Cressy*, *Aboukir* and *Hogue*, and that was a big blow to our village, because on one of the ships a brother of our Vicar, Rev. E. W. Grubb, perished, and his loss was the chief cause of the illness and death of the Vicar which soon afterwards took place. A fine man, beloved by all of us irrespective of party, creed, or sect; we all mourned his loss and felt that the village was the poorer for it.

From time to time during the war we heard the dull heavy roar of the long distance guns right from the time of Mons down to nearly the end. How those awful guns played on the nerves! It was not exactly a sound, it was more a vibration in the air that was felt rather than heard. All through the war we heard the sound of explosions of many kinds which were difficult to locate. There was a theory at one time that the sound of the guns rolled across the sea, struck the cliffs of the Isle of Thanet, and then came back to us as an echo, whether it was true or

not I cannot say. Mines exploding at sea, gun testing at various camps, practice firing, bombing, all that and the real thing when guns were fired in anger made a most horrible and incessant reminder that we were uncomfortably close to the great conflict, quite apart from the air raids which often gave us a shock.

But in spite of all that we were not without some cheering instances of the real character of our Nation. There are two little incidents which occurred in the early days of the war which bear upon this. Once a party of marines were being marched through the village on their way to Antwerp and they halted near the station road, and one of the men suddenly stood upon his head against a fence, took hold of his rifle and said "I can fight just as well one way up as the other." I give the yarn as I heard it and it may be true or false, but at any rate it was characteristic of the spirit of our fighting men. The other case was different. Soon after the war started a big flagstaff was erected outside the Bricklayers' Arms Inn, and that flagstaff impressed some of us more than anything else in the war. It was nothing less than a magic touch to erect that flagstaff ready to celebrate the coming victory. It was the spirit of our whole Nation publicly shown. The common people had determined on victory and were prepared to gain it at all costs. Many a time in the dark days of defeat and bafflement I thought of that flagstaff standing there as a silent warning against doubt and despair and ready in the fulness of time to carry the flag of victory.

Chapter II.: On Active Service.

WITH the coming of the War came the call for men to serve in the Fighting Forces and for women to serve in the ranks of Nurses and helpers in various other ways. In the early days Recruiting Meetings were held in our village and the following men joined the Forces:—

Amos, Herbert	Drew, Henry
Amos, Walter	Facer, 2nd-Lt. G. S.
Arbuckle, George	Fairbeard, William J.
Arbuckle, William	Friend, Albert J.
Atkins, Alfred	Friend, George A.
Atkins, Charles	Fox, A. C.
Atkins, John	Fox, Ernest
Ayres, George	Fox, W. H.
Banks, Arthur	Gilham, H.
Banks, William	Goddard, Thomas
Barnard, Harry	Goldfinch, Philip
Bean, Leonard	Gosby, George
Bean, William	Hackett, Isaiah
Bigg, Commander	Hammond, Albert
Buzzing, Edward	Hammond, Arthur
Cage, Albert	Hammond, Fred
Cash, John	Hammond, George
Cash, William	Hammond, Harry
Causar, Fred	Hardiman, Albert
Chandler, Harry	Hawkins, Charles
Chidwick, Arthur	Hearn, William
Coppen, Charles	Hearn, —
Coppen, Edward	Hills, William H.
Couchman, Victor D.	Hogben, Edward
Croockewit, 2nd-Lt. A. E.	Hogben, Frederick
Drake, Edward	Hogben, Frederick
Drew, Charles	Hogben, George

Hogben, George	Rofe, Walter
Hogben, John	Ruck, Albert J.
Hogben, Percy	Ruck, Frederick S.
Hogben, William	Ruck, Robert H.
Houghton, William	Seath, Lt. George
Kennett, Edward J.	Seath, William
Lee, Henry	Sheaff, George
Marsh, Frederick	Shepherd, J. A.
Marsh, John W.	Smith, Harry
Masters, Hubert	Spanton, Lt. Frederick C.
Masters, William	Spanton, Capt. Percy
Mead, William	Stennett, George
Miller, James A., senr.	Stevens, Frederick
Miller, James A., junr.	Stevens, John W.
Mills, Henry	Stone, Charles F.
Moseling, Christopher	Stone, Harry
Mummery, Ernest	Stone, Thomas
Mummery, William	Stone, William
Munns, Arthur	Stopford, Robert
Newing, William	Turner, Richard
Ouseley, Norman J.	Turner, Thomas
Patterson, J. S.	Virgo, Stanley
Patterson, Thomas W.	Ward, Charles
Payne, Dr. E. M. Bruce	Webb, Frederick A.
Pegden, Ernest	Weller, Alfred H.
Philpott, J. H.	White, Frederick
Pilcher, Albert	Willard, Jesse
Pilcher, William	Williams, Eric
Poisdon, Ernest	Williams, Thomas J.
Pollin, John	Wills, James
Pollin, William	Wilks, A.
Potts, Percy	Wooldridge, A.
Prior, Edward	Worsfold, Capt. C. P.
Pudwell, Herbert S.	Wright, F. W.
Rofe, Percy	Wyborn, Arthur
	Wyborn, Cecil

The following ladies went as nurses:—

Bigg, Margaret	Hogben, Annie
Croockewit, Helen A.	Turner, Hilda
and Mabel Ward as a W.A.A.C.	

These all, in various parts of the world, on sea and on land, from the icy waters and fogs of the North Sea to the horrors of France, and under the burning sun of many tropical climates, served our country in their own especial way to the best of their ability as duty called them. To mention the full adventures of each one would be to produce a book of stories of which any village would be proud. But the record cannot be made; those who only served in this country as watchers by the coast or in inland depôts are as much worthy of honour as those who were called upon to face the enemy abroad and the native modesty of all true heroes forbids much talk about the task they have done. They all helped to save their country and they all did their duty and our village is proud to do them honour.

The following men whose names are included above made the Great Sacrifice and have their names inscribed on the tablet in the Church:—

2nd-Lt. A. E. Croockewit	Pte. Edward E. Coppen
Cpl. P. Goldfinch	Pte. Henry T. Drew
L/Cpl. Chas. H. Coppen	Pte. Ernest A. Fox
L/Cpl. Alfred H. Weller	Pte. Fredk. M. Hammond
Gnr. Leonard Bean	Pte. Arthur E. Hammond
Rfn. John A. Shepherd	Pte. Charles Hawkins
Spr. Albert C. Fox	Pte. A. Sutherland Miller
Spr. Edward J. Kennett	Pte. William Mummery
Pte. Alfred Atkins	Pte. William Pollin
Pte. Chas. H. Atkins	Pte. Jesse Willard

Chapter III. The Special Constables.

EARLY in the war our Parish, in common with every other, was asked to appoint a certain number of Special Constables and a meeting was held in the Hall to enrol them. From time to time there were resignations and changes from various causes but the following is the complete list of those who were engaged in this form of public service:—

Amos, H.	Hawkins, E. M.
Amos, R.	Hawkins, W.
Austin, T. W. (Chief)	Jacob, J.
Beeston, W. (Dep. Chief)	Masters, W. E.
Belcher, —	Morgan, W. T.
Birchett, E. J.	Moseling, C. J.
Brothers, J. R.	Moseling, W. J.
Brotherton, G.	Mowll, W. R.
Castle, A.	Nash, W.
Chandler, J. P.	Payne, G. M.
Coppen, C. (Dep. Chief)	Pegden, E.
Croockewit, A. E.	Pollin, W.
Field, A. H.	Ransley, H. C. P.
Fox, E.	Sargent, F. G.
Friend, E.	Sherlock, F.
Funnel, J. H.	Smith, J.
Gilham, H.	Squires, J. C.
Goldfinch, A.	Walker, J.
Gosby, G. B.	Ward, C.
Graham, J. T.	Wilks, A. S.
Greener, H. W.	Wood, F.
Greenstreet, F.	Wood, G. P.
Grubb, Rev. E. W.	Wooldridge, A.

The following is the form of oath taken by the Special Constables:—

Declaration Form for swearing in Special Constables :

I do solemnly sincerely and truly declare that I will well and truly serve our sovereign Lord the King in the office of special constable for the County of Kent without favour or affection malice or ill will and that I will to the best of my power cause the peace to be kept and preserved and prevent all offences against the persons and properties of His Majesty's subjects and that while I continue to hold the said office I will to the best of my skill and knowledge discharge all the duties thereof faithfully according to law.

*Approved and declared before
one of His Majesty's Justices
of the Peace in and for the
said County this day
of in the year .*

The work of these worthy men was on many occasions most difficult and trying, especially in bad weather in the winter time. Often, when sitting indoors on a winter's night, listening to the howling of the wind and the crashing of the rain outside, one's thoughts would go out to our devoted special constables tramping the country lanes, or watching a railway bridge for no other reward than love of their country and a desire to serve their fellows. At times when a big effort was being made to send troops across the water, or when vitally important military officers or statesmen were travelling, our special constables would stand for hours on such places as West Court Bridge, exposed to the full force of the wintry storms. The Chief and another once stood on that bridge for four hours in a pitch dark and stormy night. And they never jibbed. All through

the dreary years of service they did their duty in the simple honest English fashion of our race.

Not the least trying part of their work was that of seeing that no lights were shown from private houses after dark. It was not an easy or a pleasant thing for men to have to warn and threaten to summon their own friends and neighbours for leaving a blind imperfectly drawn, and so allowing a gleam of light to shine through, but by universal consent it was done with tact and kindness and practically no friction. Largely as a result of the efforts of our special constables in keeping the village in complete darkness during the times of air-raids we were fortunate enough to escape the horrors of the falling bomb and the awful agony of death and injury to our fellow villagers. At times we thought the lighting orders were carried out with excessive zeal, but now it is all over and we can see it in perspective we honour and praise our worthy special constables for their careful attention to this part of their duty.

In times of air-raids the work of the special constables was more difficult and dangerous. Then they had to remain on duty in the village exposed to the shower of falling pieces of shrapnel, which fell all over the countryside from the shells which were fired from the great guns at the various fortresses, watching, and ready to deal with any fires which might break out, or other damage which might be done, and to see that any people who were about were promptly sent under cover. It was good work and well done.

Chapter IV.: The Air Raids.

THE most horrible part of the war as experienced in our village, in common with many other towns and villages throughout our land, was the coming of hostile air-craft. Search-lights were flashing by the dozen on all sides of us, and making a very pretty but awesome sight, when suddenly there was heard the roar of an aeroplane engine, faintly at first and ever growing in volume. It was different from those of our own aeroplanes, and was not out for pleasure. Bang went a big gun, repeated in a few moments many dozens of times. Sometimes the machines seemed right over our heads, and at others far away, but ever there was that horrible grinding sound like a threshing machine with influenza up in the skies. Then came the whizz and shriek of the shells rushing through the air and breaking into a shower of sparks in the clouds. The shriek of the shells was most trying to the nerves, especially of little children and old folks. The noise of the guns made horses, cattle, sheep and poultry call out in their terror.

A number of shells failed to explode, and some were dug up by the military authorities after a time. One was found in a field on Coxhill Farm, about six feet deep, and with its nose turned upwards. The soldiers said that as the shells lost their force in going down into the ground they always turn right round and try to get back up to the surface again. Numerous pieces were found

in different parts of the village of varying size and shape, but fortunately no damage was recorded to life or property.

One of the most striking incidents of the air-raids in our village occurred one night at the time of the full moon. A party of people were standing under shelter in a doorway watching the exploding "fireworks," when suddenly someone shouted "look! look!" and there, in a clearly cut outline was seen the shape of an aeroplane against the rim of the full moon, surrounded by puffs of smoke from the bursting shells around it. The machine seemed to be gradually climbing up the side of the moon. A pretty but terrible sight, and one that will remain for ever in the memory of those who watched.

And that was all. For us there was no broken and bleeding human wreckage to mourn over; there were no smashed homes to repair: nothing worse than a few frightened men, women, and children to care for. Many were the visitors from Dover who came out to our village to escape the danger of the town, and we welcomed them, and their trust in our security was not misplaced, and later on they went back to the town all the better for their change of air and freedom from harm. On a few occasions so many people came out to us from the town that the Village Hall was opened to them and used as a temporary refuge in which to pass a more or less comfortable night. Of daylight air-raids we had but little experience. Many an alarm was given, and

on one occasion a fight between aeroplanes in the air was seen at some distance away, and provided a thrilling spectacle for many of us.

The biggest display of bursting shells seen during an air-raid was experienced in our village at Whitsuntide, 1918, when the German aeroplanes were surrounded by a terrific barrage of shells from our own guns, and could not get away for some hours. The first Zeppelin to be brought down in flames was seen from our village, although it occurred over 80 miles away—at Cuffley.

Chapter V.: Preparing to Leave.

ALWAYS during the war there was with us a possibility of an invasion of this part of the coast. We never knew what the enemy might attempt in the way of making a landing and trying to bring the horrors of war into this country. As a consequence the military authorities prepared plans for the civil population to leave this district and proceed westwards. A full inventory was taken of every cart, wagon, and van in the parish, also the numbers of horses, cattle, and sheep were recorded, and every preparation was made for a sudden move at any hour of the day or night should the need arise. Every vehicle was booked for its especial duty in taking the children, the aged, and the invalids to a place safe from danger. The following is a reprint of the instructions given to us, and sent out to some of those chiefly interested in organizing the great move in our parish:—

KENT DEFENCE.

LOCAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE.

WINGHAM DIVISION.

The Government, through the Vice-Lieutenant of the County, appointed an Emergency Committee for the purpose in case of invasion of (1) preventing supplies of all kinds falling into the hands of the enemy, (2) of assisting our own military forces, and (3) of preparing schemes for the guidance of the civil population and of their removal further inland.

The Committee have prepared the following scheme, which will be carried into effect under the direction of the Police, should the necessity arise.

Invasion is not apprehended; the steps taken are by way of precaution; but in the event of an enemy raid the safety of the population will chiefly depend upon willing assistance being given in faithfully carrying out the arrangements which have been planned.

The following instructions are to be noted:—

- 1.—No clearance of any kind is to be made unless and until a state of emergency is declared in the district.
- 2.—It is considered **advisable** that the Civil Population should move in the case of a state of emergency being declared, but they are not **obliged** to move. It is absolutely necessary that those who elect to move shall follow the routes laid down for them.
- 3.—It is probable that a state of emergency will only be declared in this Division in the event of a hostile landing on the East or North East coasts of Kent.

If the landing should be made on the South Coast of Kent, this Division would not be called on to move; and it may happen that only a part of the Division may be moved.

AREA AND ORGANISATION.

The area under this Committee's control consists of 37 of the parishes of Wingham Petty Sessional Division; the remainder are included in "Dover Fortress."

The Committee have made eleven groups of

parishes; the following is a list with the names of members of the Committee in charge of each group:—

No. 1.—ICKHAM, WICKHAMBREAUX, LITTLEBOURNE, STODMARSH.

Mr. J. D. Maxted.

No. 2.—BISHOPSBOURNE, KINGSTON, BARHAM.

Mr. R. Tanner.

No. 3.—DENTON, WOOTTON, SWINGFIELD.

Mr. F. P. King.

No. 4.—GOODNESTONE, CHILLENDEEN, KNOWLTON, ADISHAM.

Messrs. H. Fitzwalter Plumptre and C. S. Ratcliffe.

No. 5.—WINGHAM, PRESTON, ELMSTONE, STOURMOUTH.

Captain J. W. Robinson.

No. 6.—ASH, STAPLE.

Messrs. T. F. Spanton, G. C. Solley, C. Petley.

No. 7.—EASTRY, WOODNESBOROUGH, WORTH.

Admiral Sir R. H. Henderson, G.C.B.,
Messrs. G. Buley, J. J. Caspell,
G. Goodson.

No. 8.—BETTESHANGER, HAM, NORTHBOURNE.

Lord Northbourne, Messrs. A. C. Birch,
T. P. Scott.

No. 9.—SHOLDEN, GREAT AND LITTLE MONGEHAM.

Mr. J. C. Burgess.

No. 10.—WALDERSHARE, TILMANSTONE,
COLDRED, EYTHORNE AND SHEP-
HERDSWELL.

Admiral Sir E. Rice, K.C.B., Messrs.
H. E. H. Rice, M. F. Ramsay.

No. 11.—NONINGTON, BARFRESTONE,
WOMENSWOLD.

Messrs. H. W. Plumptre and Egerton
Hammond.

Groups 1, 2 and 3 receive warning to take action from Superintendent Heard, Canterbury.

The other groups from Superintendent Stone, Sandwich.

Sub-Committees are formed in each group, chosen by the members of the Divisional Committee responsible for the group, and include the Head Constables of each parish.

Each parish makes its own plans for carrying out the instructions of this Committee, using the Special Constables as its executive force.

The General Plan is to move all Live-Stock to the West side of Stone Street Road, and, if necessary, continue westwards to the Stour Valley.

The Civil Population will move in the same directions as the Live-Stock, but may be required to continue their movement into the district lying west of Cranbrook, *i.e.*, an area of which the corners are roughly marked by Cranbrook, Etchingham, Uckfield, and Tunbridge Wells.

ROADS AND ROUTES.

Group No. 1 will cross the Canterbury-Dover Road by the crossing at top of the hill North of Bridge

Village and proceed via Bridge Railway Station in the direction of Street End and Petham.

Group 2 will move by shortest routes to Stone Street Road.

Group 3 will move via Chequers Inn, Selstead, along Folkestone Road, turning off to Acrise, Ottinge, Lyminge, Postling Vents, Newingreen.

Groups 4, 5 and 6 will cross Canterbury-Dover Road at Barham Downs Golf Links to Bishopsbourne, Stelling and Stone Street.

Groups 7, 8 and 11 will cross at Barham and proceed via Breach Down towards Elham and Stone Street.

Groups 9 and 10 will cross the road leading to Wootton between Half Way House and top of Lydden Hill, making for Denton, Wootton, and Chequers Inn, Folkestone Road.

The Civil Population if required to move beyond the above limits will take the following routes in continuation of those given above:--

Group No 1.—From Petham to Crundale, Godmersham, Boughton Corner, Boughton Lees, along Eastwell Park, crossing Charing-Ashford Road at Potters Corner, Bethersden, Biddenden, Sissinghurst, Cranbrook.

Groups 2, 4, 5 and 6 (except Barham).—From Stone Street Road to Evington, Hastingleigh, Wye, turn to left at Wye Railway Station, Boughton Lees, along Eastwell Park, etc., as for Group 1.

Groups 7, 8 and 11 and Parish of Barham.—From Elham to Lyminge, Postling Vents, Newingreen, Lympne, Court-at-Street, Bonnington, converging upon Ruckinge Level Crossing (by use of bye roads known to Ashford District Special Constables) thence to Capel,

Spot House, Woodchurch, Lackenden, and Cuckolds Corner, High Halden, Biddenden, and Cranbrook.

Groups 3, 9 and 10.—Via Denton or Wootton to Chequers Inn, Selstead, along Folkestone Road, turning off to Acrise, Ottinge, Lyminge, and thence as for Groups 7, 8 and 11.

1.—The Committee have instructed each parish to allot vehicles and horses for the **removal of the old and infirm people** and young children, and they estimate that they have a sufficient supply of vehicles in each parish for this purpose. Sufficient food and necessaries for at least two days should be taken for all persons moving and for horses, also waggon-sails and tarpaulins.

2.—**Live-Stock** is to be driven by owners' own stockmen; and their wives and families will travel with the stock in waggons allotted to them.

3.—There are no large **stores of food-stuffs** or petrol in this Division. No destruction of property is to be carried out without express Military order; but vehicles left behind and not required by Military Authorities are to be disabled by removal of wheels or otherwise.

4.—**Boats** on the river will be dealt with by Group No. 6.

5.—**Saddlehorses** are few in number and will be used by Special Constables in the performance of their duties.

6.—The destruction of **sign-posts** will be arranged for by the Surveyors of the Local Authorities.

7.—It is understood that the Military Authorities require **trenching tools** and men to use them. Each

parish is instructed to collect its tools at convenient centres, but it is doubtful if many men will be left behind or if they will be properly organised for work unless Special Constables are ordered to return to their parishes.

(A separate memorandum of instructions to Police is attached).

KENT DEFENCE.

LOCAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE.

WINGHAM DIVISION.

INSTRUCTIONS TO POLICE.

The following are the principal duties to be carried out by the Police and Special Constables:—

1.—To see that the Live-Stock is collected and driven off by the proper routes.

To control its movement along the routes and see that the Stock is kept out of the way of military operations.

2.—To supervise the removal in conveyances of aged and infirm people and young children.

To see that they have the proper necessaries with them.

To see that they take the proper routes, and to control the movement of all vehicles and foot-passengers along these routes.

To supervise the loading-up of suitable food-stuffs for removal with the population.

Each parish should take at least one water-cart; and waggon-sails and tarpaulins should be taken with the waggons.

3.—To control all crossings on main roads—especially on Canterbury-Sandwich main road; the traffic at the crossings at Littlebourne, Wingham, and Ash must be strictly controlled.

4.—**Upon receiving instructions from Military Authorities** to see that

- (a) all vehicles left behind are disabled;
- (b) All petrol not wanted is run to waste;
- (c) Live-Stock not removed is destroyed. (NOTE.—If animals are to be destroyed, they should be shot and left un-bled, and the entrails not removed).
- (d) Any machinery likely to be of value to the enemy is put out of action.

5.—To generally assist the military authorities.

The Committee direct the attention of all the Police, County and Special, to the great responsibility resting on them in case of invasion. The safe withdrawal of the inhabitants will need strict carrying out of the scheme of the Committee and the utmost devotion of every member of the Police.

But, fortunately, all these preparations were not needed. Thanks to the bravery and skill of our armies abroad, and the vigilant efforts of our fleet we were left in peace at home, and the great removal did not take place.

Chapter VI. : War Charities.

ONE of the great features of the war in every village and town in the land was the vast amount of work done and money collected and spent on behalf of numerous charities. Probably never before in our history has there been such a great outpouring of money and self-sacrifice in the form of work for others. And our village was caught in the universal flood of goodwill, and we contributed nobly to the general flow of human sympathy for those who were in need.

Food, clothing, and other things were sent to those who were prisoners of war in Germany. Many comforts as well as Christmas presents were sent to men at the Front, and much money was collected for various purposes. But why give figures or amounts? To say that we collected so many pounds is to give but a false idea of the real gift of our love to our fellows, and the desire to serve those who needed our help. We, in common with every other place, took our share to the utmost of our ability in the work, and those who were most active and prominent in organising these gifts are just the ones who least desire that their names should be mentioned. Where such things as human sympathy with sorrow are concerned, money is no use as a measure of value, and the gifts that were made to those in need cannot be spoken of by the use of the name of Sir John Bradbury.

In addition to these activities, much help was

given in the early days of the war to a number of refugees from Belgium, who came into the village and were most kindly treated.

Chapter VII.: Peace Celebrations.

ARMISTICE DAY came at last and then the great horror was over and we all put out our flags and rejoiced exceedingly to think that our time of trial was past. On July 19th, 1919, our village in common with every other town and village in the land had its peace day celebrations. The following is the account of the day's proceedings as it appeared in the *Dover Express* at the time:—

Shepherdswell peace celebrations on Saturday opened with a united service at St. Andrew's Church at 11 a.m., which was taken by the Rev. F. M. Facer. In the afternoon sports commenced in the field next to Sibertswold Place at 2.30 p.m., and continued up till tea time, the children then having their meal in the meadow and the adults in the St. Andrew's Hall. Sports again occupied the main place in the programme until night approached, and at 11 p.m. a bonfire was lighted on Moon Hill. Maypole dances were given by the children at the opening of the afternoon's proceedings. The following are the results of the races:—

Boys' Flat Race, 10-14 (80 yds).—1st, Ben Higgs; 2nd, Jack Stimson; 3rd, L. Jewkes.

Girls' Flat Race, 10-14.—1st, Effie Stone; 2nd, Bessie Clark; 3rd, Bessie Stone.

Hugh Jump, 14-16.—1st, Francis Turner; 2nd, Reggie Virgo.

Long Jump, over 16.—1st, Samuel Sylvester; 2nd, A. J. Took; 3rd, R. Turner.

Boys' Flat Race, 7-10.—1st, Percy Fox; 2nd, John Clark; 3rd, Ernest Piper.

Girls' Flat Race, 7-10.—1st, Daisy James; 2nd, Alice Dixon; 3rd, Phyllis Gandy.

Sack Race, under 14.—1st, Norman Wooldridge; 2nd, Percy Fox; 3rd, Cyril Fox.

Relay Race, under 14.—1st, John Williams, Ernest Buttefint, Walter Stone and John Clark; 2nd, Reggie Cook, Leslie Jewkes, Jack Stimson and Percy Fox; 3rd, Cyril Fox, Eddie Cook, Joe Minkley and Charlie Minkley.

High Jump, over 16.—1st, Mr. Plummer; 2nd, J. Wills.

Long Jump, 14-16.—1st, Francis Turner; 2nd, Reggie Virgo; 3rd, Chris Wooldridge.

Hat Making, for Men.—1st, Mr. F. Turner; 2nd, Mr. Wooldridge; 3rd, Mr. Stone.

Ladies' Potato Race.—1st, Mrs. Marchant, 2nd, Mrs. Jewkes; 3rd, Miss Kennett.

Tug-of-War, Tilmanstone v. Snowdown.—Tilmanstone won by two pulls.

Ladies' Tug-of-War.—Married beat Singles by two pulls to one.

Boys' Three-legged Race, under 16.—1st, Turner and Virgo; 2nd, Fox and Williams; 3rd, Fox and Butterfield.

Ladies' Flat Race, Married.—1st, Mrs. Webb; 2nd, Mrs. Jewkes; 3rd, Mrs. Gilham.

Ladies' Flat Race, Single.—1st, Miss Stone; 2nd, Miss Ashdown; 3rd, Miss Smith.

Quarter-Mile Race, Boys 14-16.—1st, Wooldridge ; 2nd, Turner ; 3rd, Virgo.

Girls' Skipping Race, under 16.—1st, Wooldridge ; 2nd, James ; 3rd, James.

Girls' Skipping Race, under 16 (extra).—1st, Williams ; 2nd, Stone ; 3rd, Furlong.

Horse and Driver Race.—1st, Sylvester and Goddard ; 2nd, Turner and Jewkes ; 3rd, Turner and Stone.

Girls' Egg and Spoon Race.—1st, Dixon ; 2nd, Loosely ; 3rd, James.

Consolation Race, Boys and Girls.—Boys:—1st, Piper ; 2nd, Collins ; 3rd, Harvey. Girls:—1st, Watson, 2nd, Hayward ; 3rd, Nethersole.

Obstacle Race, Open.—1st, Wooldridge ; 2nd, F. Turner ; 3rd, Virgo.

Veterans' Race, over 60.—1st, Collins ; 2nd, Arbuckle ; 3rd, Sutton.

Ladies' Skipping Race, Married.—1st, Mrs. Jewkes ; 2nd, Mrs. Gilham ; 3rd, Mrs. Minter.

Ladies' Skipping Race, Single.—1st, Miss Stone ; 2nd, Miss Williams ; 3rd, Miss Stone.

Ladies' Egg and Spoon Race.—1st, Mrs. Jewkes ; 2nd, Miss Kennett.

Half-Mile Race, Open.—1st, Plummer ; 2nd, Turner.

Wheelbarrow Race.—1st, Wooldridge and Williams ; 2nd, Turner and Collins ; 3rd, Fox and Buttefint.

Ladies' Walking Race.—1st, Miss Stone ; 2nd, Miss Stone ; 3rd, Miss Goddard and Miss Newman (tie).

Four-Legged Race, Open.—1st, Wooldridge, Williams and Williams ; 2nd, Turner, Virgo and James ; 3rd, Turner, Wills and Arbuckle.

Marathon Race, 14-16.—1st, R. Turner; 2nd, T. Turner; 3rd, C. Wooldridge.

But this mere statement is only half the story, the most important part of the news is never told in the Press. The quiet talks, the calling of meetings, the committee meetings and all the other interesting parts of the proceedings can never be recorded in the pages of a newspaper. Thanks to the quiet unselfish devotion to the public good of numbers of people serving on committees and the amount of hard work put in the great day passed off satisfactorily in every respect. On Sunday, July 27th, there was unveiled a beautiful memorial tablet in the Church in honour of those who had fallen. This tablet is of bronze and beaten iron and is reproduced in the accompanying illustration.

Our Village celebrated peace as it had gone through the war, in just that spirit of quiet business-like efficiency which proves that although we are near to the Continent we are of the true British stock and have the same manner of doing our work that has made our nation the leader in the international team.

