

Returned Servicemen's Supper 1919

On Friday last, the men who have at any time since August 1914 served in His Majesty's Forces, were entertained to supper by the Benett Arms Slate Club, supported by local gentlemen.

The members assembled at six o'clock, and after the Secretary had called the roll they formed into processional order, and the guests of the evening, numbering about 50 and presenting a smart appearance, formed up.

Under the direction of Corporal Viney and headed by the Motcombe Scout Band (Mr Farmer, conductor), Colonel Guy Wyndham, Major the Hon. George Herbert, and a number of local farmers, they marched to the Parish Church where a suitable service was held. The address was given by the Rector, the Rev. R M Rees. The congregation joined most heartily in the hymns with Mr H B Blackburn at the organ.

After the service the procession was re-formed and marched, accompanied by the band, to a marquee lent by Mrs King, and erected near the Benett Arms, where a splendid supper awaited them. About 150 sat down.

The chair was taken by Colonel Guy Wyndham who was supported by Major the Hon. George Herbert and others.

The Royal toasts having been given and received with musical honours, Mr Thomas Doggrell proposed the health of the men who had served their King and country during the great war, and on behalf of the parishioners, gave them a most hearty welcome home. He also spoke in feeling terms of those who had fallen and tendered to their families a message of sympathy. Colonel Guy Wyndham, Major the Hon. George Herbert and Corporal Viney suitably responded.

The subscribers to the fund for providing the supper were thanked by Mr C Woodford, to which Mr Mark Churchill replied.

"Success to the Benett Arms Slate Club" was proposed by Major Herbert. The Secretary, Mr J Gray, in replying, said that it was one of the proudest moments of his life to see the lads back again with them and that it was more than a pleasure to arrange such an evening with the able assistance he had received from the ladies who laid and decorated the tables, the Chairman Mr T Marchant, Treasurer Mr E G Coward, and the Committee. Dancing was indulged in during the evening, the music of the band being greatly appreciated.

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The Wiltshire Regiment badge, made of bronze, is formed of a Maltese Cross with a crown on top and the name of the regiment scrolled underneath.

During WW1, the Regiment fought at the Battle of Ypres where they suffered heavy casualties and then went on to serve in all the major battles