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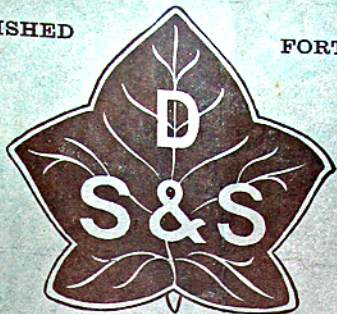
FORTNIGHTLY.

LUTON

M/1907/19

MUSEUM

The



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Official Organ of the
Luton Branch N.F.D.D.S.S.

The Journal for all Discharged and
Demobilized Men, Widows & Dependents.

Vol. I. No. 6.

AUGUST 23, 1919.

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The

LUTON

National
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Journal

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Sailors and Soldiers.

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VOL. I. No. 6.

AUGUST 23, 1919.

PRICE 2D.

The Magnificent Day of Welcome.

LADY WERNHER'S APPEAL.

THE splendid day at Luton Hoo, on Saturday last, is one that will remain as a landmark to all of us who were present. The apathy shown by those in authority and their evident lack of sympathy towards those who have fought for their country, only served to accentuate our gratitude towards our noble Lady of the Manor for the way in which her ladyship has shown that she, at any rate, had not forgotten.

Mere words can never express our feelings towards Lady Wernher. Ever since her ladyship stepped into the breach on the occasion of the Memorial Service, she has worked indefatigably on our behalf. And when one remembers that the Town Council voted the task of entertaining to be too big a proposition, and then turns to the fact that her ladyship tackled the whole thing herself, one can imagine how she has worked and how splendidly she has overcome all the numerous difficulties which had to be contended with.

The initial difficulty was to get into contact with all the ex-Service men of the town of whom there was about 5,500. Of these, 2,000 belonged to the D.S. & S., 1,200 to the Comrades, leaving some 2,300 unattached. Her ladyship got into touch with those through the press and invited them to a meeting, at which a committee was formed from them. Then with a committee from the two organisations, together with her ladyship's own committee, there ensued a fortnight's hard work arranging the details.

The day itself opened out beautifully. The weather was glorious and fully in keeping with the occasion, and at about 1 p.m. the men began to arrive.

"WELCOME."

The first thing that met the eye on arrival at the Park was a streamer across the gates with "Welcome" embroidered on it, and one felt instinctively that it was symbolical of the spirit of the day. The gates were decorated with laurel and everything betokened a happy festival.

The scene of the sports was well inside the park and one could just see the mansion amongst the trees. Arrived there, one found a large sports ground laid out in sections for the organisations, four large marquees had been erected for tea, each one being marked for its own body, and in this way the whole of the events had been organised so as to eliminate all confusion. The Luton Hoo estate staff had, for over a week, been engaged on this work, and all went to show how thoroughly Lady Wernher had arranged everything.

THE AFTERNOON.

Cricket and sports began at 2.30, by which time Lady Wernher was on the sports ground. With her were Major H. A. Wernher and Lady Zia Wernher, Lady Medina, Lord Louis Mountbatten, Count M. de Torby, Sir Charles Russell, Hon. Mrs. Victor Stanley and Miss Stanley, Major C. Crauford-Stuart, D.S.O., Capt. Arthur Critchley-Salmonson, D.S.O., Miss Pryce, Miss Henderson, Miss Stewart, Miss Jennings, Miss Cochrane, and Mr. Ernest Gape. For their convenience a special stand was provided at one end of the enclosure, and most of the events finished near this stand; but the gentlemen were busy for a large part of the time assisting in starting and judging various events, and the ladies were also moving about the enclosure to see things at closer quarters.

Even when the programme commenced there was a big gathering, and this increased considerably during the

afternoon. Programmes and cigarettes were distributed to the men as they arrived, over 7,000 packets of cigarettes being provided.

The Luton Red Cross Band and the Comrades' Band occupied the two bandstands in the sports enclosure. The Red Cross Band started punctually at 2.30, and playing alternately, the two bands provided an almost continuous performance of music until the end of the sports.

On either side of the bandstands two excellent sports tracks were laid out, complete down to the smallest detail. Large notice-boards showed the section competing on each track, and smaller notices indicated where every competition began and ended.

Special competitions were arranged for disabled men, who were taken to Luton Hoo by car, and special seats were provided for their comfort.

There was also a special little platform with a seat for one—Mr. S. Ellingham, of North-street, Luton, who saw service in the Crimea, India, and China, and has seen Britain conclude peace on five occasions.

SOCIETY IN SACKS.

The sack races and the tilting competitions were specially enjoyed by the house party, and there was great fun among the general spectators when Lady Wernher decided, and Major Harold Wernher announced by megaphone, that there would be a special sack race for the members of the house party—the gentlemen members, he added. Sir Charles Russell was given a big start in this, and although he fared like a good many more, and had a tumble, he was later called up together with the winner, Lord Louis Mountbatten, to take a prize. When the crowd saw the prizes were dolls they went almost wild with delight.

A cricket match was also played between a team composed partly of Luton Hoo and partly of Unattached and another made up of D.S. & S. and Comrades. The conditions provided for each side to be limited to a maximum of an hour's batting, and there were prizes for each member of the winning team, and also for their umpire and scorer. Luton Hoo and Unattached won by 44 to 25, largely owing to the bowling of J. Lyon (Luton Hoo) and F. Mullett (Unattached).

At four o'clock tea commenced. There had been arranged four times for this, 4 p.m., 4.30 p.m., 5 p.m., and 5.30 p.m., in order to deal with the large numbers. Towards six o'clock the lady friends began to arrive. Her ladyship deeply regretted that she had been unable to invite the ladies for the afternoon, but it had been impossible to arrange for the catering.

DECORATIONS PRESENTED.

One very interesting part of the programme was the presentation by Lady Wernher of a number of decorations to six of her guests. Major Harold Wernher announced the acts for which the decorations were awarded, and Lady Wernher pinned on the decorations, afterwards being photographed with the six valiant men. The decorations were:—

Sergt.-Maj. J. Day, 1/5 Batt. Bedfordshire Regt., of 6, Gaitskill-row, Luton, Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Médaille Militaire for conspicuous gallantry throughout the war.

Sergt. J. Barford, 2nd Batt. Bedfordshire Regt., of 50, Chobham-street, Distinguished Conduct Medal, awarded September 18, 1918; near Roussoy he captured single-handed one German officer, 47 other ranks and a machine gun.

Sergt. G. Matthews, R.A.M.C., 10, Highbury-road, Distinguished Conduct Medal for distinguished conduct in the Field in France.

Corpl. F. Gutteridge, 1st Batt. Hertfordshire Regt., 32, Harecourt-street, Military Medal for saving one R.A.M.C. man who was shot in the throat, and for bringing his own company up through a gas cloud, in the face of great odds.

Lance-Corpl. Grubb, 6th Batt. Bedfordshire Regt., 9, Windmill-street, Military Medal, awarded November 11, 1917, at Ypres, for devotion to duty and bravery in the Field.

Pte. H. S. Smith, 1/5th Batt. Lincolnshire Regt., 144, Park-street, Distinguished Conduct Medal and Croix de Guerre: the Distinguished Conduct Medal was awarded March 25, 1915, at Mount Kemmel, for rescuing a wounded man in the face of the enemy, and also for bringing in other wounded men from high ground after being himself severely wounded, his left shoulder being shot away. The Croix de Guerre was awarded on June 20, 1918, for carrying important despatches to battalion headquarters through a severe barrage.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

The prizes for the special events were distributed by Lady Wernher. Then Lady Zia Wernher handed the awards to the winners in the Luton Hoo and Unattached sections, and the Hon. Mrs. Victor Stanley distributed the awards won by the Federation and Comrades competitors.

The names of the prizewinners will be found on page 12. After the prize distribution, a vote of thanks was moved, and three cheers called for her ladyship. In replying, her ladyship said:—"I have to thank you for the vote of thanks you have so kindly proposed, and which has been so enthusiastically responded to and endorsed by all present. I am deeply touched by the sentiments expressed towards myself, and more than all do I feel honoured in having been invited to pin on the medals so nobly won by Sgt.-Maj. Day, Sgt. Matthews, Sgt. Barford, Cpl. Gutteridge, Cpl. Grubb and Pte. Smith. In all these cases the coveted awards were gained by deeds which must make us thrill with admiration and pride. It is difficult to pay a sufficiently high tribute to men who have done such deeds as these. Theirs is heroism, courage, and valour, added to the qualities of endurance and fortitude such as have been demanded of all our men who fought in this war. What is meant by that endurance and fortitude can only be appreciated by those who have visited the British battle front in France, as I have done. To have wandered over those windswept, devastated places is indeed to realise

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION.

Over all those wide stretches of wasted lands there is nothing but an impression of universal upheaval, endless ruin, charred and mutilated tree stumps, and nothing else except pathetic little groups of crosses which show where our heroes rest in peace.

(Continued on page 12).



[Photo by Mr. Percy Cook, Mill Street, Luton.]

LADY WERNHER AND THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE.—Left to right: Seated, Mr. H. C. Cooper (Secretary, D. S. & S.), Mr. S. Bowles (Comrades), Lady Wernher, Mr. J. E. Buckingham (Comrades), and Mr. F. Stanbridge (Unattached). Standing: Mr. Wilcox (Luton Hoo, Secretary of the Committee), Mr. E. A. Barton (D. S. & S.), Mr. James Baker (President of the Committee), Mr. D. B. Robertson (Unattached), Mr. S. E. Wilkinson (Secretary, Unattached), Mr. C. Barber (D. S. & S.), and Mr. Colin C. Daniels (Secretary, Comrades).



Major H. A. Wernher and Mr. James Baker chat with a Crimean veteran.

Major Wernher announces the Luton Hoo Sack Race.

Lady Wernher with the six gallant men to whom she presented decorations.

[The above Photos are reproduced by the courtesy of the "Luton News".]

(Continued from Page 4.)

"These surroundings were not such as to produce heroic deeds, were not heroism within our men themselves. You must remember that year in and year out our men not only have stood it uncomplainingly, but have risen to such brave deeds as have found public recognition to-day. In congratulating Sgt. Maj. Day and his comrades for their splendid achievements I know I am voicing the sentiments of all present when I assure them how proud and pleased we are to have them among us to-day—(cheers).

"It is only a short while ago that we met on this same ground to pay homage to the dead. To-day we pay it to the living. I should like you all to know the gratification it was to me—a very special gratification—that the drumhead memorial service was held here. To me the Park has been sanctified in that a service of that kind was held within its precincts, and the fact that we gathered here together to mourn those dear ones who will never return has formed a bond between Luton Hoo and Luton that coming ages cannot destroy—(applause).

THE RECENT RIOTS.

"Now, I have a personal word to say to you men. We all know how splendidly you did your bit. Your presence here to-day is a tangible proof of our appreciation. It is because of the way you carried on that I appeal to you to do yet further your bit in peace.

"We all deplore the recent happenings in Luton, and that a small, a very small section of hooligans and rioters should have cast a stigma on the town that has made it a byword all over England. As the Lady of the Manor of Luton, I appeal to you men to steel yourselves to wipe out that stigma. It can only be done one way—by unity of principle, unity of performance, and unity of action. We have symbolically seen this afternoon pulling different ways in the tug of war. The weaker side went under, and go away empty handed. That is not what we want to see repeated in play. We want to see every man, weak or strong, gain the prizes that

MAKE LIFE WORTH LIVING

—contentment, prosperity and happiness, and to achieve this we must all pull together and not different ways. The ladies are now anxious to join in the fun, seeing they have only just arrived, and therefore I will only say I hope you have had a happy afternoon, and that you will spend an even more pleasurable evening. I leave it in your hands to wipe out the stigma that rests on Luton"—(cheers).

During the evening concerts were given by the Eugene Concert party and also our own Concert Party alternately. These were enjoyed by large audiences and there was not a dull moment throughout. Dancing was also carried on, the music being supplied by the Red Cross Band, and the evening passed only too quickly. Shortly after nine o'clock the National Anthem was played, and thus concluded a happy memorable day and one that will go down in the annals of Luton history.

The committee of this organisation wish to place on record their warmest thanks to Mr. J. Baker (Lady Werther's agent), and Mr. Wilcox, of the Luton Hoo Estate Office, for the indefatigable manner in which they so ungrudgingly gave their time and services for the benefit of we ex-Service men, which was one of the main factors in assuring the success of the day.

LUTON HOO.

100 yds. flat handicap.—1, Hough; 2, Vass; 3, Hammett.
220 yds. flat handicap.—1, Chaney; 2, Hoff; 3, Vass.
440 yds. flat handicap.—1, Hough; 2, Reader; 3, Vass.
Sack race.—1, Hough; 2, Cox; 3, Crik.
Tilting the bucket.—1, Hammett and Hough; 2, Reader and Angell.

Silver cup for boys under 14.—A. Cox.
Veteran's Race.—G. Ward.
Girls' race.—1, Annie Jude; 2, Alice Hunt; 3, Hilda Ward.

D.S. & S.

100 yds. flat handicap.—1, H. F. Gray; 2, Squires; 3, Whitham.

220 yds. flat handicap.—1, Squires; 2, H. F. Gray; 3, F. Stanford.

440 yds. flat handicap.—1, P. M. Turpin; 2, E. J. Webber; 3, H. F. Gray.

Sack race.—1, H. Ford; 2, E. C. Cooper; 3, Henman.
Tilting the bucket.—1, W. Gore and A. Riddell; 2, Squires and Whitham.

COMRADES.

100 yds. flat handicap.—1, S. L. Rickard; 2, F. C. Brown; 3, W. Parsons.

220 yds. flat handicap.—1, S. L. Rickard; 2, E. Smith; 3, F. C. Brown.

440 yds. flat handicap.—1, S. L. Rickard; 2, Perkins; 3, S. Hawkins.

Sack Race.—1, W. Darby; 2, J. Rogers; 3, S. Hawkins.
Tilting the bucket.—1, Palfrey and Bent; 2, Bosworth and Darby.

UNATTACHED.

100 yds. flat handicap.—1, W. T. Panter; 2, W. E. Fisher; 3, C. W. Wright.

220 yds. flat handicap.—1, W. E. Fisher; 2, W. T. Panter; 3, W. G. Ireland.

440 yds. flat handicap.—1, B. Sharp; 2, W. G. Ireland; 3, J. Horton.

Sack race.—1, J. Jennings; 2, A. Horton; 3, R. Piggott.
Tilting the bucket.—1, H. Hull and F. W. Crowe; 2, E. W. Cooper and G. Smith.

SPECIAL EVENTS.

Slow hand race with instruments.—1, G. A. Hopkins; 2, A. J. Everett; 3, W. Briggingshaw.

Disabled men (one leg off) throwing the cricket ball.—1, F. Bent, 70 yds.; 2, Pettingall; 3, Smith.

Disabled men (one arm off) taking off and putting on collar and tie.—1, W. Perry; 2, W. Smith; 3, F. Coke.

Tug of war, 9ft. pull, teams of eight.—In the semi-final Unattached beat Comrades 2-0; Luton Hoo beat D.S. & S. 2-0. In the final Luton Hoo won by 2-1.

Relay race, four relays of 220 yds.—1, Unattached, Fisher, Panter, Ireland and Smart (won easily); 2, D.S. & S., Webber, Edwards, Squires and Whitham.

Silver cup for competition among winners of sectional 100 yds.—W. E. Fisher (Unattached).

Silver cup for competition among winners of sectional 220 yds.—W. T. Panter (Unattached).

Silver cup for competition among winners of sectional 440 yds.—S. L. Rickard (Comrades).

EXTRA SPECIAL EVENT.

Sack race for gentlemen of Lady Werther's house party.—1, Lord Louis Mountbatten; consolation, Sir Charles Russell.