

World War One News



Lest We Forget.

Monthly News from Home & Abroad



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August September 1916

BORTH.

FOR FRANCE.-Pte. D. J Jones son of Mr and Mrs W. D. Jones, baker who came over from Canada with his regiment left Framshott camp for France last Saturday

CONCERT In the Hotel on Wednesday evening a concert was given in aid of the Red Cross fund, under the presidency of Mr. Gomer LI. Thomas, J.P. The artistes were Miss Sophie Rowlands Mdlle. Fonsny, Mr. D. O. Morris, and Mr. W.D. Owen; M. Nicholas Laoreaux. Several of the items were encored. The Belgian National Anthem was sung by Mdlle. Fonsny "God save the King", "Hen Wlad fy Nhadau" by Miss Sophie Rowlands. Mr. R. E. Jones entertained the party to supper.

TREAT On Saturday sixty wounded soldiers who were accompanied by six nurses, were entertained at Borth A committee was formed of visitors and residents who gave the soldiers a cordial reception. The Streets was decorated with flags. The men came, via Talybont and Taliesin. After sports on the sand the men were entertained to tea in the Ballroom of the Hotel and each man was given forty cigarettes by the committee. A photograph of the group was taken by Mr R. Williams, chemist, and each will be presented with a copy. The return journey was begun at 7-30 in the evening after an enjoyable day.

HEROIC BORTH SAILOR SALVING TORPEDOED VESSEL

When the SS Van Stirum a 1,990-ton steamer, was nearing Liverpool last Christmas Day she was attacked by two enemy submarines. After an attempt to escape the captain decided to abandon his ship and took to the boats. Two men were left on board to lower the boats, but one was killed owing to the submarine firing a torpedo. Five shells were then fired at the ship. Despite her damage, the ship remained afloat.

On Christmas Day one of the patrol vessels of the Auxiliary Fleet which had discovered the SS Van Stirum' and lowered a boat with four hands, whom Seaman Richard Davies, Borth, was one, to tow the ship into port.

The undertaking was full of danger as enormous seas were breaking over and the vessel was lurching heavily. According to an article written by Mr. Alfred Noyes, the four brave men pulled to the side and clambered aboard. No sooner had the last man got up than the boat was smashed to pieces against the ship's side and immediately sank.

They found that the vessel had been torpedoed in the engine room. The stokeholds and engine rooms were full of water. On entering the saloon they saw the tables set for the Christmas dinner.

The party successfully set the hawser from the port bow to the attendant trawler; but as the steering gear had been jammed she became uncontrollable. Meanwhile the gallant four remained at their post on board. The lieutenant in charge of the trawler made up his mind that he would save them. No sooner had the boat been hauled alongside than the Van Stirum" suddenly rolled over and went down.

The four men managed to slide down the ship's side in time, cut the boat adrift, and push clear. A letter has been received from the Admiralty thanking Seaman Davies for his excellent work.

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