

Reporting
Trooper Potts in
1915

The Trooper Potts VC Memorial Site



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The Berkshire Chronicle December 24th 1915

Potts Entertained to Dinner

A function of an interesting character took place at McIlroy's Hotel, Reading on Saturday evening, when Lance-Corporal F W O Potts VC of the Berks Yeomanry, was entertained to dinner by his fellow workmen at the Pulsometer Engineering Co. where he was apprenticed. Advantage was taken of the occasion to present him with handsome gifts.

He was the recipient by the directors of the firm of a gold watch and chain, the latter having attached a specially designed pendant in the form of a gold shovel; whilst the workpeople presented him with an electro-plated tea service and tray, together with a marble clock and an illuminated address. These gifts were subscribed to by upwards of 200.

Mr C E Hodgkin, the Managing Director, presided and the company, which numbered 86, included in addition to the guest of the evening, his bride and his mother and father. A smoking concert over which Mr Hodgkin again presided, followed and was attended by a gathering numbering upwards of 200.

Mr Hodgkin made the presentation on behalf of the directors, He referred to the great bravery displayed by Lance-Corporal Potts in rescuing his comrade and warmly complimented him on the great honour which had been bestowed on him.

Lance Corporal Potts expressed his gratitude to the directors for their great kindness.

Mr F T Smith, the works manager made the presentation on behalf of the workpeople.

During the evening several toasts were drunk, The Loyal Toast was submitted from the chair and Mr Hodgkin also proposed the health of Lance-Corporal Potts, Mr Smith supporting it. The toast of "the Army and Navy and Auxilliary Forces" was submitted by Mr J H Clews and responded to by Mr Percy Gyles.

A capital musical programme, arranged by Mr and Mrs Percy Gyles was carried out. Those who contributed were Mrs Nasmyth, Mrs Percy Gyles, Mrs Dracup, Mr Will Hive, Mr H Damerel, Mrs S L Mills and Mr Treleven (ventriloquist) The accompanist was Mr G Feltham.

The room was decorated by Messrs McIlroy Ltd

Mr S Potter carried out the arrangements.