West Sussex & the Great War Project
www.westsussexpast.org.uk

Chichester Observer 21st November 1917 page 3

A CHICHESTER D.C.M. WINNER.

SERGEANT G. WELCH PUBLICLY HONOURED.

PRESENTATION BY THE MAYOR.

Sergeant George Welch, of the Royal Fusiliers Regiment, whose home is at 127, Victoria Road, Putney, Chichester, was publicly honoured on Saturday afternoon, when the Distinguished Conduct Medal, which has been awarded him for gallantry on the field, was formally presented to him by the Mayor (Mr. A. G. Gilbert, Esq.), in the presence of a large and distinguished company. The interesting ceremony took place during an interval at the National War Aims meeting in the Assembly House, when Lord Edmund Talbot, M.P., was the principal speaker, and Sergeant Welch was received with cheers as he mounted the platform at the invitation of the Mayor.

Describing the event as an interlude, the Mayor explained that Sergeant Welch was a Corporal when he won the decoration. He enlisted soon after the war commenced, and was gazetted for the first time in the early recruiting meeting in Justice Square on April 15th, when the late Sir Edward Coke was present. Sergeant Welch was proud of the fact that he was not trained in the streets. A year ago he had his first real experience, and his brush with the record of his regiment, as he performed the act of this afternoon, to present the D.C.M. to Sergeant George Welch, put on the Westbourne Hotel, and now at the request of the public meeting held earlier in the afternoon, he was invited to present another, as it was a case of history repeating itself.

The Mayor then read the following official record of the award:

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in the battle of Ypres on July 30th and August 1st and 2nd. He established and held advance posts in the village of St. Julien and afterwards several times advanced under a very heavy fire, gaining a number of badly wounded men. During the heavy hours the battalion was in the line, Corporal Welch displayed wonderful courage and dash and saved the lives of his officers and men by his work.

That, my Lord, was the record as it stood.

"The King, being deeply moved by the conduct of this英勇 soldier, has been pleased to award him the D.C.M. for his gallant services.

The award was presented to the receiver on the platform, and the Mayor presented the D.C.M. to Sergeant George Welch.

A younger brother had also made the supreme sacrifice at the same time as the Sergeant won his distinction. The letter was not yet 22, and was one of the youngest Sergeants in the British Army.

On hearing the news of the receipt of the medal, the Mayor said: "I am sure that this medal, which I now present to you on behalf of the King and the people of this city, under your high command, and which you may carry with equal pride to that which you have carried in the field, will be a source of great pride to your family and to your friends."