

*Chichester Observer* 21st November 1917 page 3**A CHICHESTER D.C.M. WINNER.**SERGT. G. WELCH PUBLICLY  
HONOURED.

## PRESENTATION BY THE MAYOR.

Sergeant George Welch, of the Royal Sussex Regiment, whose home is at 102, Victoria Road, Portfield, 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 (Alderman S. A. Garland, J.P.), 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 Room, where 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 "extra turn," the Mayor explained that Sergeant Welch was a Corporal when he won the decoration. He enlisted soon after the war commenced, being one of the first to come forward at one of the early recruiting meetings in Eastgate Square in 1914, when the Dean was the one of enthusiastic speakers. Chichester was proud of the part her sons had taken in this great struggle. A year ago he had had the privilege, as his first public duty after being elected for the fifth time, to present the D.C.M. to Sergeant (now Lieutenant) Riddett, and now at his first public meeting after being elected for the sixth time as Mayor, it was his privilege to present another, so that it was a case of history repeating itself.

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

"For most conspicuous gallantry and good leading in the battle of Ypres on July 31st and August 1st and 2nd. He established and held advanced posts in the village of St. Julien and afterwards rendered assistance under a very heavy fire in binding up a number of badly-wounded men. During the seventy hours the Battalion was in the line, Corporal Welch displayed wonderful courage and fearlessness, and his heroic example and devotion to duty inspired the men of his Company."

That, said his Worship, was as fine a record as any man could be proud of. (Applause.) He also read a letter from the Colonel of the Battalion, already published, thanking the Sergeant for helping him back to headquarters after he had collapsed from exhaustion. He went on to say that Sergeant Welch was practically a native of Chichester. Although Fishbourne claimed him as his place of birth, he was educated at the Lancastrian School under Mr. Apps, and spent most of his time in Chichester until he joined up.

A younger brother had, alas, made the supreme sacrifice about the same time as the Sergeant won his distinction. The latter was not yet 21, and was one of the youngest Sergeants in the British Army. (Applause.) Since winning the medal he had been wounded in the fighting at Tower Hamlets, being shot through the wrist and receiving a shrapnel wound in the shoulder. He was now on a week's furlough and was going back to hospital to have the shrapnel taken out.

Pinning the medal to the Sergeant's breast, the Mayor said, "I am sure that this medal, which I now present to you on behalf of the King and as Mayor of this city, you will wear with equal honour to that which you have displayed in winning it. I wish you a quick recovery from your wounds, a safe delivery from future dangers, and a long and happy life when the war is over." (Applause.)

When the applause had subsided the gallant young Sergeant, who shewed no sign of being wounded, removed his cap, and, facing the audience, thanked the Mayor for his speech and the company for their kind applause. He then turned to leave, but several gentlemen on the platform shook hands with him and offered their congratulations before he took his departure.