



Double Honour for Holt Soldier

D.C.M. and Russian Order

The inhabitants of Holt are very proud of the further distinction conferred on a native of the village, and many congratulations have been extended to Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Ladd, of The Midlands, whose son, Lance Corporal William Herbert Ladd, 2nd Wilts Regiment, has been honoured by His Imperial Majesty The Emperor of Russia, who has conferred upon him the medal of St. George for gallantry and distinguished service in the field.

This makes the second distinction gained by Corporal Ladd in the present war, he having been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in April last year for conspicuous gallantry.

Corporal Ladd, who is aged 23, has been seven years with the Wiltshire Regiment, and has seen service in Gibraltar, Ireland and other places. He is attached to the machine gun section and was with his regiment in the heavy fighting at Neuve Chappelle.

No official details of the special services rendered by Corporal Ladd have yet been received and no mention of his bravery is made by the hero himself. His comrades, however, are enthusiastic in their praise, one stating in a letter to friends that Corporal Ladd was a true hero, having stuck to his gun continuously in face of heavy odds. Another soldier with the regiment gives further details, stating that "Ladd held the German line in check for eight hours, all his comrades being killed or wounded. This action saved the front line of trenches and says the soldier "deserves the Victoria Cross".

Mr and Mrs Ladd have in addition to their son, many relatives serving with the forces, including a son-in-law and two brothers-in-law, one of whom has been gazetted in the R.F.A. Also 11 nephews, one with the Somersets and another in the Army Service Corps having been wounded.

Sergeant Walter Ash, a son-in-law of Mr. Ladd is with the 5th Wilts in the Dardenelles, and much anxiety is felt by his wife and children on his behalf, no tidings having been received of him since the severe fighting on the Peninsula, when the Wilts suffered heavy casualties.

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