



Stratton Fire Brigade

The Retirement of the Captain

Presentations to Mr. and Mrs. Glynn

An Interesting Gathering

When it became known that Mr. E. F. Glynn, the popular Captain, and practically the founder of the excellent Fire Brigade at Stratton St. Margaret, intended retiring from that post, a movement was set on foot to make a presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Glynn as some slight acknowledgement of Mr. Glynn's valuable help rendered at all times to the Brigade since its formation. Not only the members of the Brigade took up the matter most heartily, but a number of parishioners expressed their desire to be associated with the movement. Necessary funds were quickly forthcoming, and two beautiful presents were purchased, which took the form of a silver-mounted hunting crop for Captain Glynn and a gold-mounted cut whip for Mrs. Glynn.

The date arranged for the presentation was Monday, when Captain and Mrs. Glynn entertained the members of the Fire Brigade and their wives and sweethearts to a substantial tea, which was partaken of on the beautiful lawn in front of their residence, The Close, Stratton St. Margaret.

The members of the Brigade assembled in full uniform at the Fire Station, and, under Chief Officer A. G. Keene, marched to The Close, where they partook of tea, and afterwards various games were indulged in.

At seven o'clock the firemen, a dozen in number, were paraded on the lawn, the officers present being Chief Officer A. G. Keene, and Second Officer G. Spencer, with retired Officer E. Hoddinott, who was formerly a very active member of the Brigade, and who still retains his uniform.

There were also present the Vicar (Rev. C. F. Burgess), Mr. E. Kembrey (representing the Parish Council), Mr. S. Turner, Mr. C. W. Freeth, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. Glynn stepped forward in front of the Firemen, and with their little son and daughter - Master Glynn being prettily attired as a young Territorial, with sword etc., complete, and saluting the Brigade in proper form - and then the presentation was made.

Addressing Mr. and Mrs. Glynn, Chief Officer Keene said:- Chief Officer and Mrs. Glynn, - It is my privilege to ask you, on behalf of the Fire Brigade, to accept a hunting crop and a lady's riding whip, subscribed for by the Brigade and numerous friends, as a small token of our respect. I am authorised by the Brigade to express our great regret in losing you as our Chief. Of all men, we (the Brigade) know best how much you have done for it, how keenly interested you both were in its welfare, and how hard you have striven to make it efficient. Out of the raw and untrained material that we were, you have made us what we are. We acknowledge it, we thank you for it, and we are grateful. I am glad to tell you that the Brigade, as a fire fighting machine, is working smoothly, due without doubt to your careful training and management, particularly by insisting that each fireman shall know, not only his special duty, but as far as possible the whole of the routine. This smooth working of Brigade machinery is, I take it, a convincing proof of the soundness of the policy and the excellence of the training given to the Brigade by you, the Officer whose loss we so keenly feel today (applause).

Second Officer Spencer observed that he was no speech-maker, but he most fully endorsed all that Mr. Keene had said as to Captain Glynn's excellent leadership and his valuable help rendered to the Brigade in many ways.

Mr. E. Hoddinott, the next speaker, in a brief speech, endorsed all that Mr. Keene and Mr. Spencer had stated. He said:- Captain and Mrs. Glynn, on behalf of parishioners outside of the Brigade, I am requested to say how much they appreciate the skilful way in which, from the raw material, you have formed a Brigade, of which they are justly proud. They desire me to thank you for your persistent, untiring efforts, and to express their regret that you have found it necessary to resign the command of the Brigade.

The Rev. C. F. Burgess said he stood before them that evening in a two-fold capacity, viz., as a past member of the Fire Brigade, and as Vicar of the Parish. I would like to say how glad I am to be present on this occasion, to endorse with all my heart all that has been said by the Officers of the Brigade. I look back to the very pleasant time when I was a member of the Brigade myself, and I am expressing what I most earnestly and truly feel that the present position of the Brigade is due to you, Captain Glynn. I cannot say how much I myself owe personally to you for your kindness, your thoroughness and perseverance in every way, in doing your best, which has been an excellent best - for the Brigade. I feel sure that upon the foundation you have laid a most excellent Fire Brigade in this Parish. That foundation is one on which the present and future is built upon, and for that reason I trust and feel sure that the Brigade will go on with the same success. I will not say more, but again express my gratitude to you, and to sincerely thank you for inviting me to join you on this occasion.

Fireman R. Grant then handed the presents to Mr. and Mrs. Glynn.

Mrs. Glynn first expressed her thanks for the kind present. She said she had done no work to deserve it, but she should treasure it and think of the Fire Brigade. (applause.)

Captain Glynn, in acknowledging the presents, was greeted with applause. He said he desired to most heartily thank his old comrades, past and present, of the Stratton St. Margaret Fire Brigade, and all the subscribers (known and unknown) to that beautiful present. On first hearing he was to receive a present from them, he experienced a great shock of surprise and fear - surprise, because he had done nothing worthy of it, and fear that they would be wasting the gift upon an unworthy person. But with regard to his wife, that feeling disappeared, because any little that he had done for the Brigade would have been impossible without her ready help, and her sympathy at every turn. In fact, without the able assistance of his wife, he would have given up long ago, when things looked difficult - and this not through lack of keenness. He hoped bachelors would take note (laughter), and that married ladies would remember that members of the Brigade did appreciate their help. (hear, hear). After some further humorous remarks, Captain Glynn proceeded to briefly review the history of the Brigade from its inception. He said that it had been in 1906 Mr. Hoddinott and himself were asked by the

Parish Council to form the Brigade, and they did so. Mr. Glynn proceeded to pay tribute to Mr. Hoddinott for the great help he rendered, and also other members of the Brigade. He also mentioned how Dr. Muir taught them the Ambulance work, and expressed gratitude to all who had helped the Brigade. He felt sure Mr. Keene would carry out the work successfully, and he was himself glad to have had the privilege of serving in so noble a service as the Fire Brigade service, and in doing so he had secured the confidence of those who had been privileged to lead. He again thanked them for those tangible proofs of their appreciation of his services. Those gifts would always be to his wife and himself a possession of the highest value, by reason of all that they meant and all that the givers were expressing in their gift. (applause)

Ringed cheers were then given for Mr. and Mrs. Glynn and family, and the company shortly afterwards dispersed.

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