

## ANOTHER RINGER KILLED.

### A FAMOUS RIFLE SHOT.

Fighting for the dear old country, Corporal John Tippins, a famous rifle shot, and a ringer at Mistley, Essex, has fallen on the field of battle.

John Tippins came of ringing stock, for his father is, and his grandfather was, a change ringer, the latter being one of the best of his day in Herefordshire, and a skilled bell hanger in the bargain, while the former is still actively connected with the Mistley band. His son, who has just lost his life, had not time to do much ringing, for his chief



THE LATE CORP. JOHN TIPPINS.

pastime was rifle shooting, and he did not ring a 5040, his longest lengths being date touches, although he was a very safe ringer in the Grandsire, and Oxford and Kent Treble Bob methods. He, however, had rung only on six bells, and almost all his ringing was done at Mistley.

It was on the rifle ranges that he secured the greatest distinction; indeed so great was his skill that short of winning the King's Prize itself, nearly all the honours that could be gained he had won. He was in the final stage of "The King's" in 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911 and 1913; he won the Wimbledon Cup in 1910; the Association Cup in 1909; the Service Rifle Championship in 1911 and the Albert in the same year.

He was one of the English Twenty and shot in all the teams but the Elcho in 1914, and had shot in a previous

year in that. He was one of the Empire team going to Australia this year and was famous as a team shot and in all forms of deliberate and rapid fire. He was formerly a sergeant in the 5th and 8th Essex Regiments, but since the war broke out had joined the 2nd Essex Regiment, in which he was a corporal. He met his death while fetching water for his maxim gun.

Ringers, and Essex men particularly, will regret to learn of the death of so good a soldier and will extend their warmest sympathy to the bereaved parents.

## KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

### ROCHESTER DISTRICT.

A quarterly meeting of the Rochester District was held on Saturday last at St. John's Church, Higham. The bells were available from 3 p.m. A short service was also held, at which visiting ringers numbered twelve. There were also several parishioners. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. G. C. Allen, D.D.).

The District Secretary (Mr. E. A. G. Allen) presided at the organ. Tea, to which ample justice was done, was kindly provided by the Vicar, and was served at the St. John Falstaff Hotel.—Mr W. J. Walker was voted to the chair for the business meeting.—The report of the district for the year 1914 showed that 29 peals had been scored, and that the bells in two towers had been overhauled, namely, Shore and Higham. At the former the work consisted of a new steel frame for eight bells, and rehanging the old six complete with new fittings throughout. At Higham, a new steel frame for six bells, rehanging the old five with new fittings, and adding a treble. The opinion of all who had rung at either place was that they reflected the greatest credit on Mr. A. Bowell, of Ipswich, who had carried out the work. The only drawback at Higham was the noise in the belfry which needed remedying.

The Hon. Secretary was thanked for his report, and two new members, of the Tunstall band, were elected.

Cobham was selected for the half-yearly meeting, to be held in March. A vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar for so kindly providing tea, and also for the use of the bells. The tower was again visited until 9 p.m., when the bells were lowered in peal. After a course on handbells, the gathering broke up, with the expression of opinion that those present had thoroughly enjoyed a small but very pleasant meeting.

### PRESENTATION TO A RETIRING SECRETARY.

The quarterly meeting of the Maidstone District was held at East Farleigh on Saturday. In accordance with a resolution passed at the Central Committee in December last, it was decided to make out a list of all the ringers who are serving their country with the colours. In order to do this it is hoped that every ringer who enlists will notify his district secretary, stating his regiment, rank, etc. The roll of honour is to be published with the annual report for 1915.

The Rev. K. W. Mumford, who has for two years acted as district secretary for Maidstone, having accepted a curacy at Dunstable Parish Church, it was necessary to elect a new district secretary, and Mr. S. Hazleden, of East Farleigh, was unanimously elected to this post. He said he would do his best to make ringing go forward in the locality, and thanked the members for honouring him with the position. The cloth, he said, was different, but not so much as might be expected. The retiring secretary's was once black, and his was once grey, but now they were both much nearer another shade. He then asked the chairman (the Rev. H. B. Littlewood), on behalf of the members, to present the Rev. K. W. Mumford with a brown leather satchel case as a parting gift from the ringers, and in appreciation of his services.—The Rev. K. W. Mumford said that the splendid bag, which had his initials stamped upon it in gold, would be of constant service to him in the future and a perpetual reminder of the very pleasant two years he had spent with the bell ringers of the Maidstone district. He thanked them deeply for their real expression of gratitude for the little that he had been able to do for them.

## LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Manchester branch was held on Saturday last at the Cathedral, when a goodly number of members and friends put in an appearance. Mr. John Eachus, who presided over the business meeting, expressed deep regret that their old friend Mr. Jas. Barratt (who had passed over to the great majority), was no longer with them with his genial smile and welcome voice.—Mr. J. Wright, of the local company, was elected a performing ringing member.—Pendlebury was chosen as the next meeting place.—A discussion as to how best honour might be shown to those who have gone to serve their king and country took place, and will be further discussed at the half-yearly meeting.—A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Dean and warden, and to the local ringers for having things in readiness.

BURTON LATIMER, NORTHANTS. — On Dec. 6th, for evening service, 729 Cambridge Surprise Minor: J. Pettit 1, J. Hendry 2, M. Hobbs 3, H. Saddington 4, H. Meadows 5, G. Lines (conductor) 6.