

East Knoyle War Memorial  
Unveiled by Lord Rawlinson

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Commemoration Cross and Village Hall Extension



*The War Memorial 1921 (postcard)*

General Lord Rawlinson, who is shortly leaving England to take up the Indian Command, visited East Knoyle on Sunday to unveil the War Memorial Cross and also to re-open the Village Hall with extensions which formed part of the memorial scheme.

His Lordship, who was accompanied by Lady Rawlinson, was associated with East Knoyle in his boyhood, and it was regarded as a great compliment that just prior to his departure for India, he should have re-visited the old Wiltshire village to do honour to the men who went out from Knoyle to make the great sacrifice.

The memorial cross, designed by Mr Herbert Maryon, warden of Wantage Hall, University College Reading, had been erected at Knoyle House Corner. It is of slender design, rising 16ft from a plinth.

On the front of the square base is the inscription "To the Glory of God and in memory of the men of this parish who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War 1914-1918". On one side panel are the words "Greater love hath no man that this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" and the opposite panel records the names of the men commemorated, viz: Edwin Durrant, Gerald S Forward, James F Fletcher, William T Fricker, Robert Griffiths, Albert J Harris, Edward W Joliffe, Fred Joliffe, Victor H Joliffe, Sidney Jukes, Frank W Knight, James J Lampard, Reginald G Littlecot, Oliver Snook, Edward D Small, Ernest Tanswell, Robert S Tanswell, Edgar Wareham, George H Wyndham, Percy L Wyndham.

The Comrades of the Hindon and Knoyle Posts and the Knoyle Girl Guides were on parade as guards of honour to receive Lord Rawlinson and among those present were the Dowager Countess of Pembroke, Captain the Hon. George Herbert, Dr Jex Blake and Lady Muriel Jex Blake, Colonel Guy Wyndham, Captain G R C Wyndham, Miss Olivia Wyndham, Colonel Bouverie, the Rev. M W Lumsden, Mr H Maryon, Dr and Mrs J Blythe, Mr E H Miles, Mr F Alford, Mr H Francis, Mr J Jones, Mr H Burton, Mr F W Barnes, Mr T Bath, Inspector Townshend and others. The Knoyle Band, conducted by Mr H Fry, played selections of music.

The proceedings opened with a procession of the surplice choir and clergy from Knoyle Church to the site of the memorial, where the Rector, the Rev. W. Neville and the Rev. E A Reader, conducted a brief service. The Rev. F Yeomans, Primitive Methodist Minister, represented the Free Churches and read the Lesson. At the request of the Rector, General Lord Rawlinson removed the Union Jack which had concealed the base of the cross and in impressive tones he recited the words inscribed on the front panel.

Turning towards the assembly, Lord Rawlinson said it gave him great pleasure to come down to Knoyle to unveil the memorial for two particular reasons. Firstly, because in his younger days, as a child, he was brought up at East Knoyle, and he welcomed the opportunity of returning to the home of his fathers to pay some tribute to the memory of the men from Knoyle who had fallen in the War, who had made the great sacrifice for their King and Country, and who had contributed their bit to the winning of the triumph of this great Empire.

Among the names recorded on the memorial was that of one who was an intimate friend and aide-de-camp of his own, one whose character and example were such as it would be well for every young man of the present day to follow, and whose loss to his King and the Empire, to his regiment and his family, had been irreparable. There were others whose names were on the memorial who had done their duty, and with their relatives, they all felt most deeply. This cross was erected as a memorial to their bravery, to record their great deeds, and to perpetuate their memory. He could look back to many whom he knew at Knoyle in the old days, to Mr Alfred Seymour and others, who had passed away. This memorial would bring to their children and their children's children, the knowledge that in these days the inhabitants of East Knoyle did their duty to their King and Country.

The Rector dedicated the memorial and recited prayers and petitions suitable to the occasion and the hymns "When I survey the Wondrous Cross" and "There is a Blessed Home" were sung. At the close, buglers of the Wiltshire Regiment sounded the Last Post. Lord Rawlinson afterwards laid a wreath of laurels at the foot of the cross and bereaved relatives also deposited floral tributes at the base of the memorial.

There was subsequently a large gathering at the Village Hall to which additions have been made as part of the memorial scheme. A kitchen, bar, cloakrooms &c. have been provided and the parish is now in possession of premises well adapted for use as a social club or institute. The Trustees of the Seymour Estate made the handsome gift of £1,000 and the balance of £450 was raised by subscriptions. Colonel Guy Wyndham was chairman of the Memorial Committee and the Hon. George Herbert as Hon. Secretary was assisted by Mr F W Barnes.

Colonel Guy Wyndham, in asking Lord Rawlinson to open the new premises, said his Lordship had already alluded to one reason why the people of East Knoyle were glad to welcome him, but there was another and more important reasons. They had now an opportunity of welcoming one associated with Knoyle who had filled a great and distinguished part in commanding an Army in the Great War (applause).

Lord Rawlinson, who was greeted with cheers, said it gave him great pleasure to declare the Hall, or rather the recent extensions to it, open for the benefit of the inhabitants of East Knoyle. He always thought there could be no more suitable memorial to those who had made the great sacrifice than a social club of the nature that Knoyle had decided upon. He held that view because these clubs perpetuated the spirit and feeling which, after all, was the great incentive that brought us victory in the war. They perpetuated the sentiment and spirit of unit and good comradeship, the sinking of selfish motives and personal interests for the benefit and for the success of the whole community. It was in this club where harmony and concord should reign supreme that the inhabitants of East Knoyle would have the opportunity of meeting together for the discussion of every kind of question, for recreation and entertainments, social and other, for the benefit not of one section, but for the benefit of each and every individual in their area.

The war had introduced many different feelings and sentiments into the country as a whole, and in these times, they wanted to remember what the Comrades present would always remember - the spirit of self-sacrifice in the toil and work and energy which brought them through the troubles and discomforts and sometimes the misery of the war. He would ask them to carry on in that spirit and work together for the good and benefit of the whole community.

They were indebted very largely to the Seymour Estate for the extensions to the hall and he was very pleased to see that Colonel Henry Bouverie, a Trustee, was present to help him in declaring the hall open. They welcomed his presence and he was sure that the people of East Knoyle would welcome him whenever he came amongst them. (applause). He (Lord Rawlinson) wished he were able to accompany Colonel Bouverie. Matters of duty were calling him away for the next four years, but when he returned he hoped he would find the place as prosperous as it was that day. They owed a debt of gratitude also to the present tenant of Knoyle House, Lady Pembroke, and those of her family who had done a great deal to enable the inhabitants of East Knoyle to be in the position they had reached, and he thought they owed a great deal more than he could express to any tenant of Knoyle who was not there in close touch with them. (hear, hear).

It gave him considerable pleasure to see present so many Comrades of the Great War who had done their bit and who were now, he hoped, prosperous and fully employed, and he was anxious to have an opportunity of passing through their ranks and shaking hands with them all. He had noticed one man wearing the riband of the DCM and he had no doubt that there were others in their ranks who had earned distinctions. He wished them and Knoyle every possible good fortune in the years that were before them. (applause).

Colonel Henry Bouverie said he hoped the people of Knoyle would all enjoy the use of and benefit from the possession of these extended premises and he trusted that their proceedings might be attended with considerable success.

On the motion of Colonel Wyndham, a vote of thanks was accorded to Lord and Lady Rawlinson.

Outside the hall, the Comrades of Knoyle and Hindon paraded under the command of Major the Hon. George Herbert, and Lord Rawlinson passed along the ranks shaking hands with each man on parade.

At the close, the singing of the National Anthem was led by the band and was followed by cheers for the King and Lord Rawlinson.

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