

Reporting
Trooper Potts in
1915

The Trooper Potts VC Memorial Site



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Lance Corporal Potts' Wedding

INTERESTING CEREMONY

A wedding of considerable interest was solemnised at St. Giles Church Reading on Wednesday, when Lance-Corpl Frederick William Owen Potts VC of the Berkshire Yeomanry and who was awarded the stripe by the King when his Majesty decorated him with the Victoria Cross yesterday week, was married to Miss Ruth Wellstead, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J T Wellstead of 9 Rowley Road, Reading. Although it was intended to keep the wedding as quiet as possible, the news quickly spread that Reading's hero was going to enter the bonds of holy matrimony, with the result that a the church was well filled whilst a large crowd gathered outside to witness the arrival of Lance-Corpl Potts and his bride.



Lance-Corpl. Potts wearing the VC with his bride

The ceremony was performed by the Re R W Carew Hunt, Rector of Albury, Oxon, late Vicar of St Giles' assisted by the Rev O F Spearing, curate at the church. The bride who was given away by her father, was attired in a navy blue travelling costume. She wore a panne velvet hat trimmed with a white ostrich feather which was sent her by the bridegroom whilst he was on active service. She was attended by Miss Ellen E Potts, sister of the bridegroom who was dressed in a navy blue costume and wore a black hat trimmed with cream roses. Trooper M F Butlet (of Reading) the (3rd) 1st Berks Yeomanry, an intimate friend of the bridegroom discharged the duties of best man. Lance-Corpl Potts wore the Victoria Cross.

The Rev T W Carew Hunt delivered a short address and as the happy pair left the church a peal of bells was rung. The bridegroom is the only son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Potts of 54 Edgehill Street Reading.

The reception was held at the residence of the bride and Lance-Corpl and Mrs Potts subsequently left for Brighton where the honeymoon is being spent. Several useful presents were received.

DECORATED BY THE KING

Lance-Corpl Potts was decorated by the King with the Victoria Cross at Buckingham Palace on Thursday last week. The hero is stationed at Windsor and on the Wednesday a wire was received summoning to appear before his Majesty the next morning. He left Windsor on the 7.27 am train accompanying three of his chums who were wounded at the same time as himself at Hill 70. These included Corpl Wells and Trooper Bennett.

When Lance-Corpl Potts arrived at the Palace he was ushered into an ante-room which was filled by several officers who were waiting to be received by his Majesty for the purpose of being decorated with various honours. Lance Corpl Potts was the only one of non-commissioned rank present.

Ultimately he was conducted into the King's presence, his Majesty shaking him heartily by the hand. The record of Lance-Corpl Potts' heroic action was read out then the King conversed with him for between five and ten minutes and said how pleased he was to convey the honour on him.

His Majesty inquired how Trooper Andrew, whom Lance-Corpl Potts rescued, was progressing and spoke in terms of high appreciation of the great gallantry the VC displayed.

Trooper Andrews, we are pleased to state, is making capital progress towards recovery. He is now in hospital in England.