

AUDREY GATWARD'S UNCLE

My Uncle Wes, my mother's older brother, was a real gentleman. He joined the Leicestershire Regiment on 11th September 1914. In July 1916 the Leicestershires took a leading role in the battle of the Somme and Uncle Wes was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery in this battle. The citation reads:

"For conspicuous gallantry in action. After his company had suffered severely he rallied it under heavy fire and led it against parties of the enemy still holding the wood. He set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty."

It appears that Uncle Wes became something of a celebrity during the war with various articles about him appearing in The Melton Mowbray Times. Uncle Wes received his medal from King George V at Buckingham Palace on 26th September 1917.

He was promoted to Company Sergeant Major after the battle of the Somme and although he came through this battle unscathed, he was wounded at some point and as a result, had a metal plate in his head for the rest of his life. Uncle Wes lived on Thorpe Road Melton Mowbray and worked in the wages office at Holwell Works. I thought he was lovely and as a special treat during the school holidays I accompanied him in the pay car as he went round the iron ore mines in the Vale of Belvoir handing over packets of money to the miners. I remember he was a keen golfer and cricketer.



MELTON AND THE REG.-SERGT .- MAJOR FRIER ON LEAVE. This week, Reg. Sergt. Major W. G. Frier of the Leicestershire Rogiment, who, as stated a fortnight ago, received promotion from C.-S.-M. immediately after the recent engagement in the Somme battle guilant a part, has been home on a well-earned leaving Melton again yesterday (Friday) Major Frier was naturally the recipient of congratulations from friends and acquaint-Frier, Thorpe End, was in the offices of the Holwell Iron Co., Asfordby Hill, before the war, and joined and cricketing circles before the war, and was member of the Stute, by which name the loc Young Men's Institute is known.

REGIMENTAL SERGT,-MAJOR W. G. FRIER GAINS THE MILITARY CROSS. series of promotions marking the military career of Regimental Scrgt.-Major W. G. Frier, Leicestershire Regiment, of Mélion Mowbray, which we have had the pleasure of noting from time to we have had the pleasure of noting from time to time, have stamped him as a soldier of considerable ability and skill, and this week it is a gratification to announce that his gallantry and resourcefulness on the field of battle have been recognised by the conferring upon him of one of the highest honours for such—the Military Cross. The leicesters, it is scarcely necessary to remind our readers, took a leading part in the lighting in the carly part of the battle of the Somme in July, assisting in the capture of Mametx Wood and the Barentins, and it was for his work and bravery during this portion of the engagement that R.S.M. Frier gained the honour. He was then at once promoted from Co. Sergt. Major to Regt. S.M., and was told by his Commanding Officer that that would not be the last he would hear of it. What he actually did he will not permit us to say, but the published, two or three weeks ago, describing the posticular phase of the battle mentioned, gave a good idea of what the regiment went through. Sergt. Major Frier, who was recently home on leave, as the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Frier, Thorpe End, Malten Mowbray, and, prior to enlisting in Sen-