

Potterne WWI Employer's Neglect of Duty 1916

Mark Few, of Narborough Farm, Potterne, answered a summons at the Devizes County Session on Wednesday for failing to post on his premises a list of persons employed by him who were of military age. P.C. Baden said that on the 23rd August he visited the defendant's farm and told him he had come to see the list of men of military age in his service. "I don't know what you mean." replied the defendant, "this is the first I have heard about it." Witness explained what he was required to do, and defendant said he would do it the following day. On the 28th witness called again and then saw Mrs. Few, the defendant being out; she said the list was not ready. Asked to show the form, Mrs Few produced one, but no entries had been made upon it. In answer to a question the constable said the defendant employed three men of military age. - Mr. Few, admitting the charge, said he had company and forgot to fill up the for.

Mr. Schomberg told him he had had every opportunity of going so. He could not plead ignorance, but he had certainly been undifferent to his duty. It was a serious offence for which the maximum penalty was £100. But as that was the first prosecution in the division the Bench would take a lenient view and only fine him 20s.

The constable said the list had since been posted.

Source: Wiltshire Telegraph 23 September 1916.