

BARTON MAN HELD BY JAPS

News has been received this week by his wife that Marine Sgt. Robert Henry Seddon, of Chapel-lane, Barton-on-Humber, is a prisoner of war in Japanese hands. A postcard written by him brought the news to his home after anxious months of waiting. He has served in the Marines for eight years.

Barton Man P.O.W.

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ber, is a prisoner of war in Japanese hands. A post-card written by him brought the happy news to his home after anxious months of waiting. He has served in

the Navy for eight years, and before joining up he was a member of the Barton Cycling Club.

Diamond Day party

THE day after Joseph Henry Steddon married Sophia — 60 years ago — he had to go back with the Army to Lowestoft.

It was just after the First World War in 1918 when Joseph was clearing mines off the South coast.

Mr Steddon, 81, born at Barton-on-Humber, and his wife Sophia, 90, born at Thornton in Lincolnshire, explained at their home in Cross Street, Morton, that they first met at a party.

After that first meeting love bloomed but their courtship was not to be an easy one, due to the war.

Even when they were married at St. Peter's Church, Barton, they never lived together all the time because Joseph was away and only came home on leave.

A year after being married Joseph was moved to Grimsby with the Army to do some minesweeping on their coasts. It was there that the couple set up their first home together.

During the war, Sophia, the youngest child of 14, was in domestic service. She also worked at Leeds where she polished propellers on planes.

In 1921 Joseph left the Army and went to work on a farm in Barton.

During the 40 years that he worked there, he and his wife had two boys. But tragedy struck while both their sons were in the Second World War.

Their youngest son was

killed in Italy when the ship he was travelling on was sunk, and for four years Robert, their eldest, was a prisoner of war in Japan. After the war, however, Robert became a successful civil engineer and now has his own business.

When Joseph retired the couple decided to retire to Morton. They have lived in the village for the past ten years but have now decided to move back to their home town, Barton.

On Saturday, which was also Sophia's 90th birthday, they went to Barton for a party to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary, which was two days later on Monday.

On Monday, after they received a telegram from the Queen congratulating them on their 60 years of marriage, they had another party given by their son.

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village

DAY'S LEAVE TO GET MARRIED

WHEN MR JOSEPH HENRY SEDDON (70) married his wife Sophia (80) at St. Peter's Church, Barton, 50 years ago he was allowed one day's leave from his minesweeper at Lowestoft.

Mr Seddon, who celebrated his golden wedding at his grand-daughter's home, 15, Cecil-close, Scotter, this week, said: "I got married one day and had to return the next."

Mrs Seddon said: "I remember not being pleased about him having to go back."

Mr and Mrs Seddon, of 77, West Acridge, Barton, thought the secret of a long and happy marriage was helping one another.

RETIRED

Mr Seddon, who is a native of Barton, was on minesweepers until 1919. When he returned to Barton he did various jobs and

then worked for the Farmers Company, now ACC, for 40 years. He retired six years ago.

Before her marriage, Mrs Seddon, who was born at Goxhill, was in domestic service at Leeds. Her hobbies are dress-making and cooking. She has made the golden wedding cake for the family party on Saturday.

Mr and Mrs Seddon have a son, Mr Robert Seddon, of West Woodside. Their youngest son was killed in the 1939-45 War.

Mr and Mrs Seddon are moving in with their son soon. Mr Seddon said: "We are sorry to leave Barton, but think it will be for the best."



Joseph and Sophia Steddon at their home in Cross Street, Morton, hold up their telegram from the Queen and a silver tray from their son to commemorate their diamond wedding anniversary.

Photo: Mick Ford