

Keeping the Home Fires Burning

How the First World War was felt in Beverley

When war was declared in August 1914 the population of Beverley was around 14,000, nearly a quarter of whom eventually became involved in the war in some way. During the four years of the war life in Beverley continued much as before, despite the shortages and changes in the workplace resulting from so many men leaving for the front. This exhibition primarily uses the Beverley Guardians published from 1914 to 1918 to explore the impact of the war on this corner of East Yorkshire.

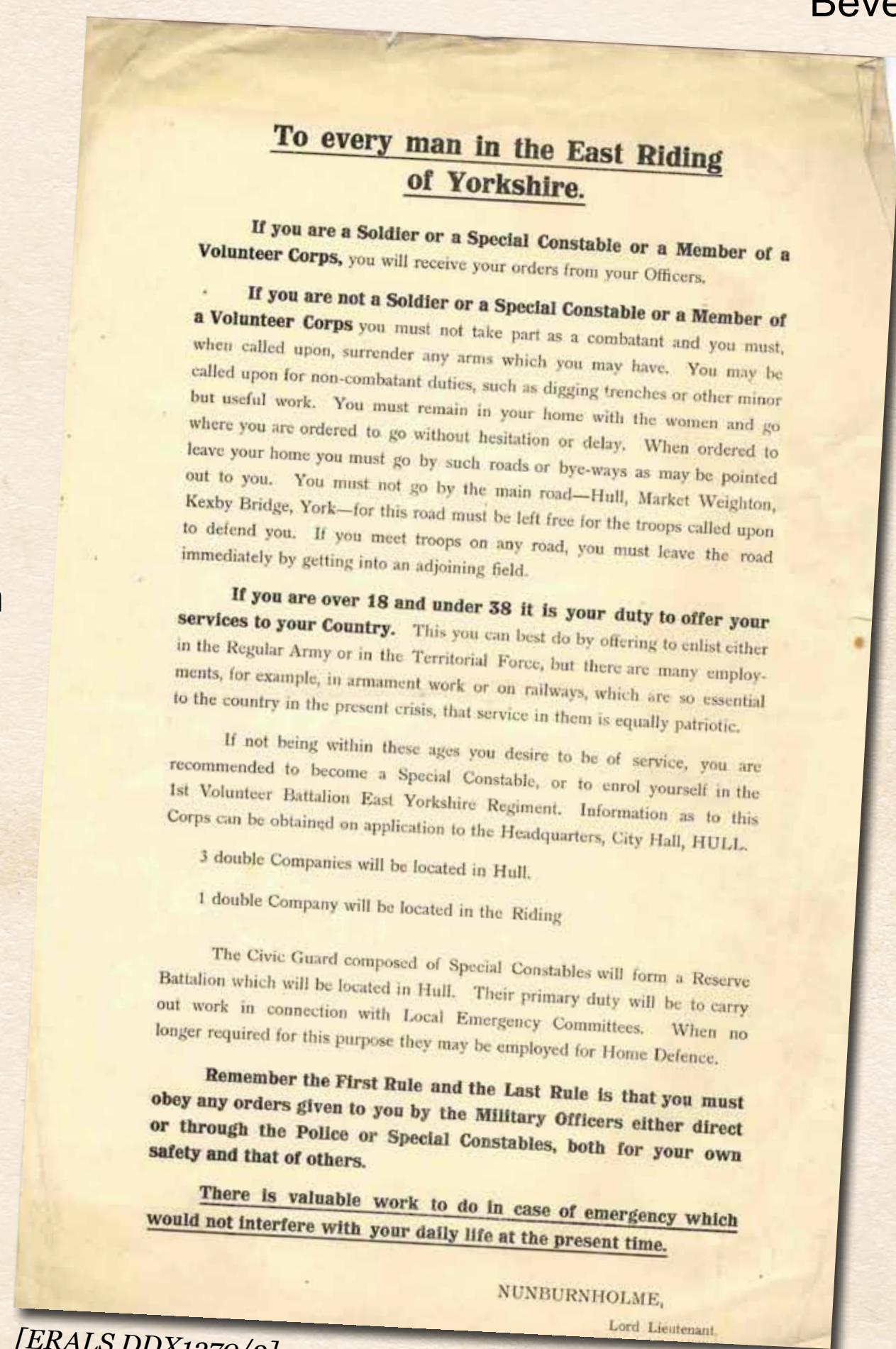
War was declared on August 4th 1914, and very soon the Mayor, Martin Westerby was praising the inhabitants of Beverley who had “*preserved a calm & quiet demeanour. There was no need to panic*”.

The early days of the war saw plenty of activity in the town.

- On 30th September, 1914 a “*Great Recruitment Meeting*” was held at the Assembly Rooms addressed by all political parties. The shelling of Scarborough and Whitby in December 1914 encouraged many more men to join up, and the Victoria Barracks was swamped by new recruits, some of them sleeping on the barrack square. 100 voluntary workers, both men and women, worked every night at County Hall to prepare registers for the East Riding Military Authorities.
- Out of a population of under 14,000 in Beverley, 3,000 men volunteered or were conscripted. 400 Special Constables volunteered.
- All boys over 12 at Beverley Grammar School volunteered to give help if “*the necessity arose*”.
- An aerodrome was quickly established on Westwood in August 1914.
- Men from the West Riding and Northumberland came to the town for training. Refugees arrived from Belgium.
- An Emergency Committee organised Town Defence, and Voluntary Aid for the Sick and Wounded arranged the supply of beds, nursing and domestic staff, all in the first month of the war.



The entrance to the Victoria Barracks. [ERALS DDX1544/1/3/33]



[ERALS DDX1270/2]

Throughout the war years the town struggled with shortages of food, coal and paper. The loss of many men to the front necessitated changes to the way local businesses worked.

Often they replaced the men with women or injured ex-servicemen, or reduced their opening hours. During the war about 150 people, mainly women and girls, went to work in the munitions factories.

The townspeople also felt the need to support the troops in any way they could, both whilst they were in the town and away. Numerous fundraising activities were organised. Fund raising for worthy causes was vital when Government resources had to go first of all to the serving troops – and very important in helping to develop that national spirit of “*We’re all in it together*”.



Supporting the new recruits. [ERALS DDX1525/1/12/50]

“*A pig, a military mascot, passed over Beverley in an aeroplane fulfilling Mother Shipton’s prophecy.*”

It was also important to keep up morale so concerts, film shows and sports days were frequent. Providing sports and recreation for the troops, both active and wounded, also fostered the national spirit and towns and Beverley’s sports clubs, such as the Beverley Town Cricket, Bowling, and Athletic Club at Norwood Park, were eager to “*do their bit*”.

By the time the war ended in 1918 over 400 Beverley men had been killed in action and 600 more were wounded, missing or gassed. The announcement of the Armistice on 11th November 1918 was greeted with flag-flying, bunting and pealing of church bells. An effigy of Kaiser Bill was paraded through the streets and burnt on the Westwood. Despite this, the town’s joy was somewhat restrained because few families in the town had escaped bereavement.



Group of men with pith helmets, labelled “Beverley Volunteers for the Front”. [ERYMS 1997.794]

“*I think Beverley is doing her share towards fighting for the country.*” Pte. G.W. Jeffrey, Peel Place.

“*Having some lovely weather in France.*” Bombardier R. Shepherd, Beckside



The East Yorkshire Regiment

At the outbreak of war the Garrison Headquarters of the East Yorkshire Regiment was at the Victoria Barracks off Queensgate, where the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion was stationed. During the War a further three Service Battalions were raised here.

The East Yorkshire Regiment was originally formed in 1685 in Nottingham by Sir William Clifton. Originally, as with many other infantry regiments, it was known by the name of its Colonel, but became the 15th Regiment of Foot in 1751. From 1881 it was known as The East Yorkshire Regiment, the County Regiment of East Yorkshire.

The Garrison headquarters of the Regiment was at the Victoria Barracks in Beverley (later the site of Morrisons supermarket). The site was acquired for the Regiment in 1874 and the buildings completed in 1877. As well as serving as the depot of the East Yorkshire Regiment the Victoria Barracks also housed the East York Militia.



Aerial view of the barracks at later date, probably mid 20th century. [ERYMS 2005.27]



Outside the entrance to the barracks in 1909. [ERYMS 2005.30.111]



Large group of officers and men, members of the 3rd Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment. [ERYMS 1997.746]

At the outbreak of war in August 1914 the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment, a Battalion of the Regular Army, was stationed at the Victoria Barracks. This was a training unit which remained in the UK throughout the war, moving within a few days of declaration of war to Hedon for duty as the Humber Garrison, then in 1916 to Withernsea.

During the war sixteen hostilities-only battalions were raised across the Regiment for the New Armies of Lord Kitchener, three of them in Beverley. These were:

- The 6th (Service) Battalion, formed at Beverley on 27 August 1914. In December it became the Pioneer Battalion to the 32nd Brigade, 11th (Northern) Division, serving in Gallipoli in 1915 and France from 1916 until the end of the war.
- The 7th (Service) Battalion was formed at Beverley on 16 September 1914, serving in France from July 1915 until the end of the war.
- The 8th (Service) Battalion, was formed at Beverley on 22 September 1914, sailing to France a year later. The Battalion was disbanded in France on 17 February 1918.

In total during the First World War the Regiment was awarded 1,125 British medals and 94 foreign awards plus 397 mentions in dispatches.

"You know it takes a lot to knock a Beverley kid out." Sgt. R.E. Lawson

Conscription

The heavy losses of men experienced during the early years of the war resulted in conscription being introduced in 1916. White feathers were handed to men who were thought to be dodging the draft and tribunals were held to hear appeals against conscription.

When conscription was introduced in 1916 single men were called up first, but by May all men between 18 and 41 were being called up.

A letter in the Beverley Guardian railed against the injustice of giving exemptions from conscription to clergy, police and teachers, and white feathers were given to anyone suspected of draft dodging. In an article on July 3rd 1915 a "*Patriot*" claimed that households with men of military age who preferred not to join up were being showered with "*recruiting invitations*" from townspeople.

Local tribunals heard appeals against conscription. Many believed the tribunals should help preserve one-man businesses by allowing appeals against conscription of staff. If men were granted

exemption they were ordered to join the Volunteers, but were sent to the front if they failed to report.

When pleading against being conscripted, a '*student of philosophical ethics*' told the tribunal that he needed time to find philosophical proof for his thesis that it was wrong to "*make happiness our aim in life because that led to too much luxury*". The tribunal chairman

reassured him saying, "*you won't find too much luxury in the Army*" and ordered him to join up immediately.



In 1916 men who had been previously discharged through injury or ill-health were required to re-enlist. Any who were excused re-enlistment could apply for the Silver War Medal lapel badge to show they had seen service.

To avoid being labelled as conscientious objectors households displayed notices from the Beverley Borough Council in their window to say they had members serving at the front. [From Peter Calvert]



Supporting the troops

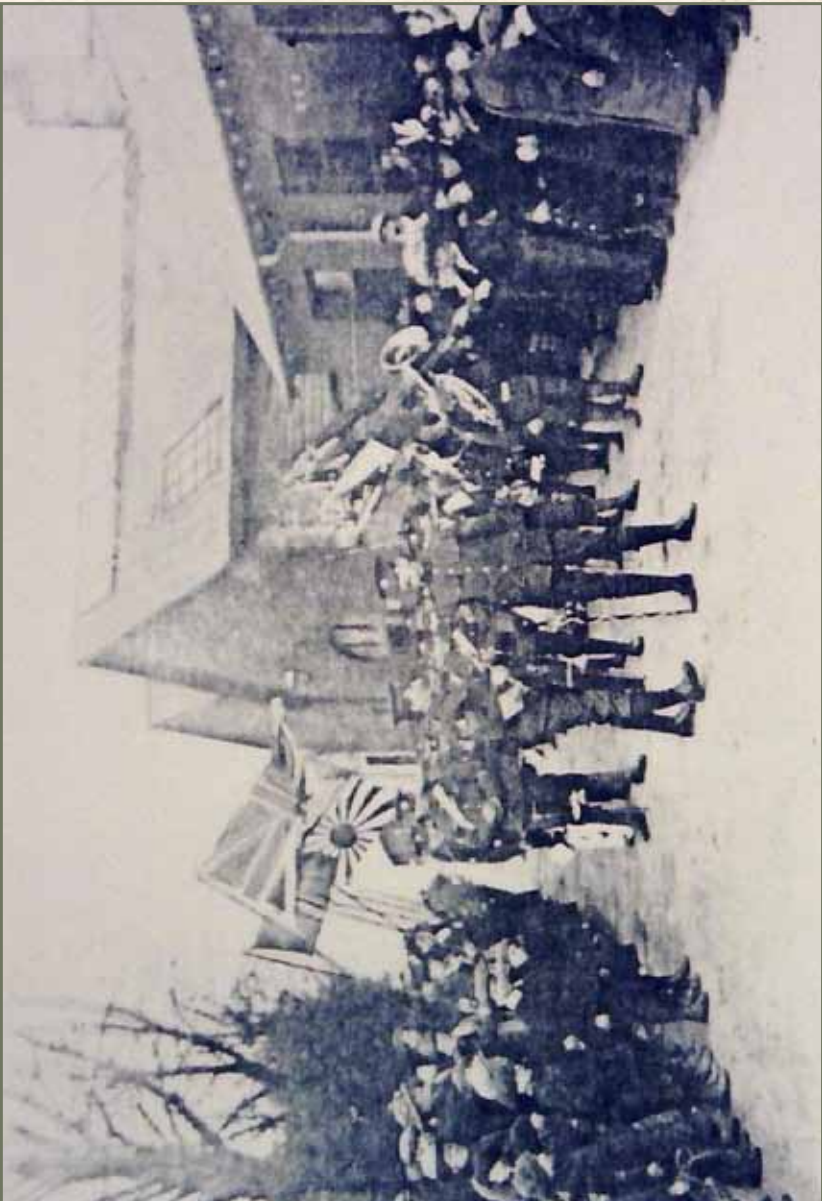
Many families had members serving overseas so the townspeople were keen to support the troops in any way they could. Soldiers in the town were entertained, supplies were provided for them whilst they were away, either serving at the front or as Prisoners of War, and hospitals were set up to cater for the wounded on their return.

Many Beverley families had fathers, brothers or sons serving at the front so the townspeople were keen to provide support for the troops.

Local industries often had a number of their men serving together: twelve men from the Tanyard who were serving in the 5th Yorkshire Battalion were provided with two boxes containing tobacco, soap and sweets from the men of the tannery butt sheds. The Grovehill shipyard supported the Local Prisoners of War Fund by “adopting” prisoners as did the “Girls at the Ropery”.

Soldiers on their way to neighbouring camps were fêted as they passed through the town. Tea and sandwiches were provided for officers and men of the 12th East Yorkshire Regiment who stopped in Saturday Market on a march through Beverley

on the way to their camp in Dalton Park in 1915. It was the first public duty of the Special Constables to line the streets on such occasions. A Bugle Band led the men into the market place and ladies at various stalls made tea at the sound of a whistle.



Crowds turn out to support the soldiers in 1914. [ERALS DDX1525/1/12/51]

games, magazines, tea & coffee. Books and magazines would be handed into the library to be forwarded to the troops.

In September 1914 the Beverley Guardian arranged an appeal: the newspaper made an arrangement with a tobacco company to buy cigarettes cheaply. If readers contributed 6d, the paper would aim to send 40 cigarettes to every soldier in the East Yorkshire Regiment. Apparently the French gave cigarettes freely to the soldiers but nobody liked them.

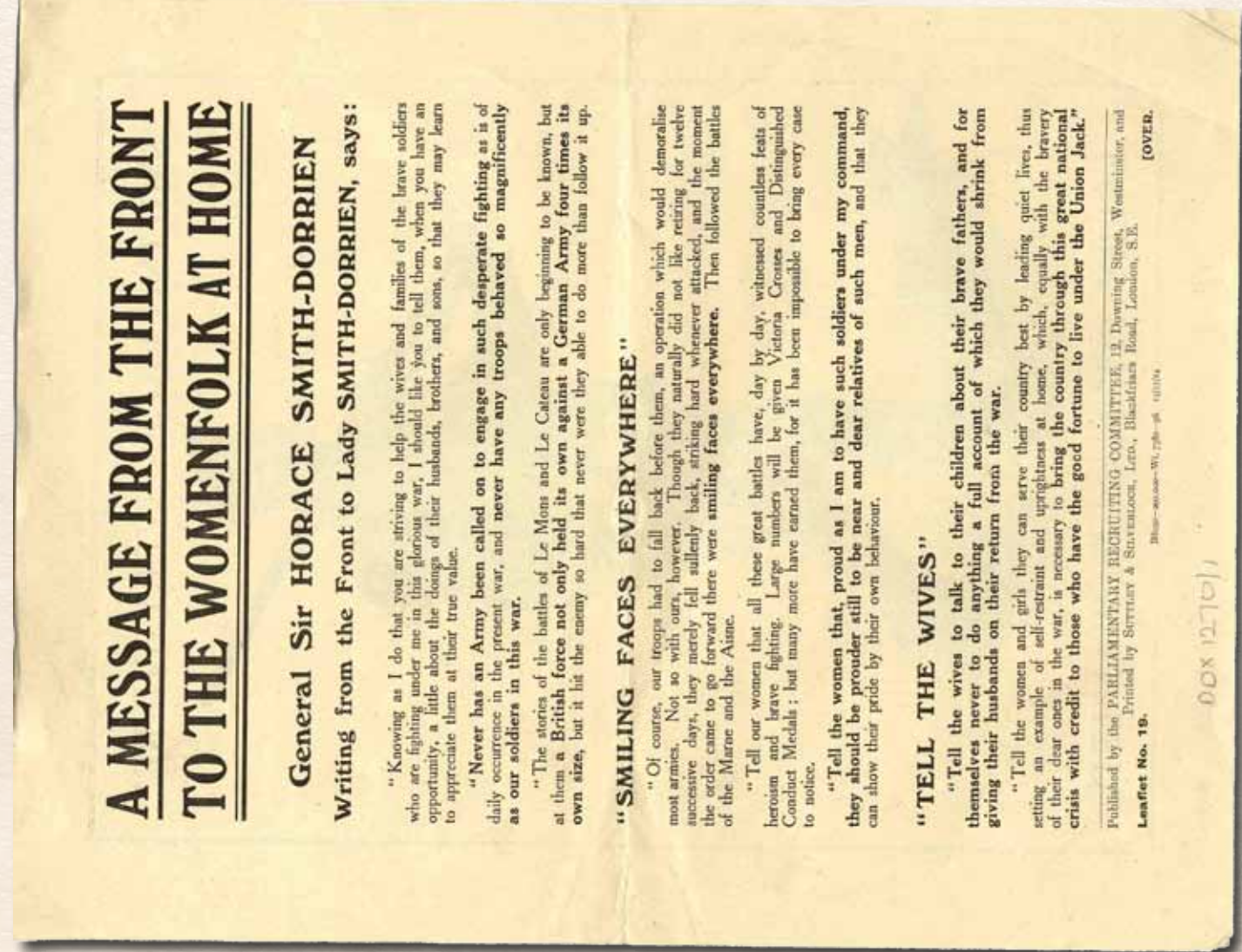
The East Riding War Depot in Beverley sent 1,179 parcels of clothing and 3,000 pairs of socks to Prisoners of War in Germany between July and September 1918.

In 1918 the National Egg Collection Service at the Baptist Church received 160 eggs for wounded soldiers. Also in that year the Blackberry Scheme encouraged teachers to take children to pick brambles on private land because the fruit crop had failed and jam was necessary for the Army and Navy.



VADs outside the Y.M.C.A. hut on Lord Robert's Road in 1914. [From Rosalie Sylvestre]

Brigade provided two stretcher parties. The VAD supplied hospital requisites to a hospital in France. VADs collected £100 for a “Beverley Bed” with a commemorative nameplate in the new Trouville Hospital.



[ERALS DDX1270/2]

The Voluntary Aid Detachment (V.A.D.) in Britain had over 74,000 members in the summer of 1914, two-thirds of whom were women. By September 1914, the local VADs, under the Quartermaster Miss Todd, had organised 78 beds ready and equipped in Beverley, some in private houses and others at the Westwood House Infirmary, the Workhouse, the Cottage Hospital and some schools.

There was a detachment of ambulance men mostly from Hodgson's and the Boys Brigade. The Church Lads

Soldiers in the town were entertained, supplies were set up to cater for the wounded on their return.



Red Cross ambulance presented to the British army by the Borough of Beverley. [ERYMS 1997.672]

By 1918 Chlorine Gas was a terrible new weapon and British soldiers protected themselves with wet cloths soaked in water or urine over their mouths. The Beverley Guardian announced, “Fruit stones and nut shells are a prime necessity for making anti-gas masks for our troops. Send them to the Public Library where they will be sorted and forwarded to HQ in due course.” The kernels and shells were made into charcoal, mixed with anti-gas chemicals and put into cloth pads.

“Fruit Stones and nut shells are a prime necessity for making anti-gas masks for our troops.”



Mr Majolier of 41 North Bar Without (above) offered 12 hospital beds. Another 14 beds were offered at 25 Stephenson Terrace (right). [Photos from Denis Price]

For King and Country

In common with every other town in the country Beverley suffered its share of losses from amongst its population. The first wounded soldier arrived back as early as September 1914. Many families lost several members and often those who had joined up together were lost together. However, morale was lifted when Beverley was able to honour one of its men, John (Jack) Cunningham, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his conduct at the Battle of Ancre in 1916. These stories are just a very few of the many.

As early as September 1914 the first wounded soldier arrived back in Beverley. He was Private Arthur Taylor, son of the licensee of the Travellers Rest Beerhouse on Beckside. He had strained his back and heart from carrying a big Sutherland Highlander out of the firing line at Mons for about 2 miles. He got a bullet through his cap and one through his sleeve, and reported that “*bullets whirred by me like bees*”.

Four brothers from the Lawson family saw action. In October 1914 Sgt R.E. Lawson, 1st Lincolns, was at home in Beverley after his left shoulder was smashed by shell-fire. He wrote to W.H. Rutherford of the Market Cross Restaurant that “*The Kaiser has caught me at last ... I would have liked to have hold of the gunner who fired the shell. I would have put the ‘Coffee House Knock’ on him... You know it takes a lot to knock a Beverley kid out.*” Of the four Lawson boys Sgt. R.E. Lawson was wounded in 1916; Corporal J. Lawson wounded in 1918; 2nd Lt. G.W. Lawson was missing (11/4/1918); and Pte Thomas Lawson was killed in 1917.



On the left: Edgar Huntley, son of Lockwood Huntley, Beverley Borough Librarian, served on the HMS Prince of Wales, HMS Dolphin and HMS Iron Duke. He eventually left the Navy in 1928.

On the right: Harry Harness, the 4th son of Robert and Mary Harness of Beverley, joined the Navy before the war in 1908 as a trainee telegraphist and joined HMS Pathfinder in 1913. HMS Pathfinder was on patrol in the North Sea and was returning home when it was torpedoed by U-Boat 21 in the Firth of Forth. The ship went down in minutes, killing over 200 men. Harry was one of the few rescued. He later joined HMS Tiger and saw service at the Battle of Dogger Bank before being invalided out in 1915. [From Dianne Smith]

Pte. F.B. Hobson of London Rifle Brigade, son of Charles Hobson, a chemist in Beverley wrote, “*After the worst night we have ever spent, it was raining and we were told to lie down. The mud was about 6” thick and there were puddles. Today we went to have a bath, they gave us all clean underclothes and fumigated our uniforms. We have all got goat skins...a mackintosh would have been more use.*”

“*Colonel Benson was the finest man that ever rode a horse.*”



Levi Nicholson, who was born in Beverley, died in India in 1913 while serving with the East Yorkshire Regiment. [ERYMS 1997:719]

to the dugout he was in. “*He was wonderfully cheerful and brave, his interests centred on his men.*” He had only just got back from sick leave in England and could have been enjoying “*a soft job in England but felt he should be back with his old battalion*”. The youngest of 4 sons of the proprietor of the Beverley Guardian, he was educated at Beverley Grammar School and in Gotha in Germany. He was commissioned in 1915 in the Yorkshire Regiment where his brother Robin was a captain. Another brother, 2nd Lt. Philip Green was also killed in action.

Lt. Jack Ross, R.N. and Lt. Eric Mathers, Machine Gun Corps, were killed only two weeks before the Armistice. Both had attended St. Mary’s Boys School together, both had Church Lads Brigade decorations and both fell on the same day.

“*It’s like being in hell out yonder.*”

Victoria Cross, the highest honour

Pte John (Jack) Cunningham (1897-1941) was from a family of travelling hawkers who used to have a pot stall on Beverley Market. He had lived for a time in Flemingate and went to Minster Boys School. At Buckingham Palace the King presented him with the Victoria Cross and spoke to him for 5 minutes.

Capt. R.A. Plimpton of the Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders, captain of Beverley Cricket Club for 7 years, was killed in action in 1917. He received the Military Cross.

Driver, Arthur Collinson (24) 3rd son of the licensees of the White Horse, Hengate, was shot through the abdomen when taking ammunition to the guns on November 15th 1917. He had an operation but died of pneumonia later. The family had 3 more sons at the front.

Lt. Frank Green (23) died of his wounds in 1918 after a shell burst in the entrance



Pte Jack Cunningham, VC, in 1916 [From wikipedia]

He arrived in Beverley with his new wife at the Railway Station, the special guest of the Mayor of Beverley, who welcomed him with, “*How are you my gallant VC?*” A large crowd filled Station Square to cheer his arrival and bunting decorated the streets. The Playhouse showed a film of the Cunningham wedding which had been produced by Ernest Symmons. The Playhouse’s advertisement proclaimed “*this is the Hall that goes to the expense of taking local events.*”

Lost at the Battle of Jutland, 31st May 1916

The Green’s Almanacks regularly featured pictures of those who had been lost, such as these following the Battle of Jutland on 31st May 1916.



Charles Arthur Nunn, born 1885, son of Mrs M E Myers of Mill Lane, who was an Able Seaman on the HMS Defence.



Robert Stanley Fox, born 1896, son of Mr Albert Fox of St Andrew Street, who was an Able Seaman on the HMS Queen Mary.



Thomas Hunsley, born 1897, son of Mark and Anna Hunsley of Figham Gate, who was a Stoker 1st Class aboard the HMS Black Prince.



Clarence Eric Plaxton, born 1893, son of John & Annie Plaxton of Thearne, who was a Stoker 1st Class aboard the HMS Invincible.

Defending Beverley

Measures were put in place to defend the town in the event of a Zeppelin raid. These included ringing the church bells and the scouts cycling round the town blowing whistles to alert the population. Blackouts were imposed, with penalties for such offences as “*wheeling prams without lights*”. Town defence in case of an invasion was organised through the Volunteers Brigade and a rifle range was opened to train men in shooting skills.

Air raid measures and the blackout

In the event of an air raid by Zeppelins it was arranged that the bells of the Minster and St. Mary's would be rung to alert the population. Boy scouts on bicycles also rode through the streets blowing their whistles. All inhabitants were told to remain indoors in cellars or lower rooms and not congregate on the street.

The Gas Works was ordered to reduce pressure so that all public and private lights would dim. All lights had to be extinguished by 10p.m. and 11p.m. on Saturdays. Shopkeepers were asked to extinguish outside lights and to shade the inside ones.

The Council had no power to



The Beverley Gas Works a few years after the war. [ERALS DDX1525/1/1/37]

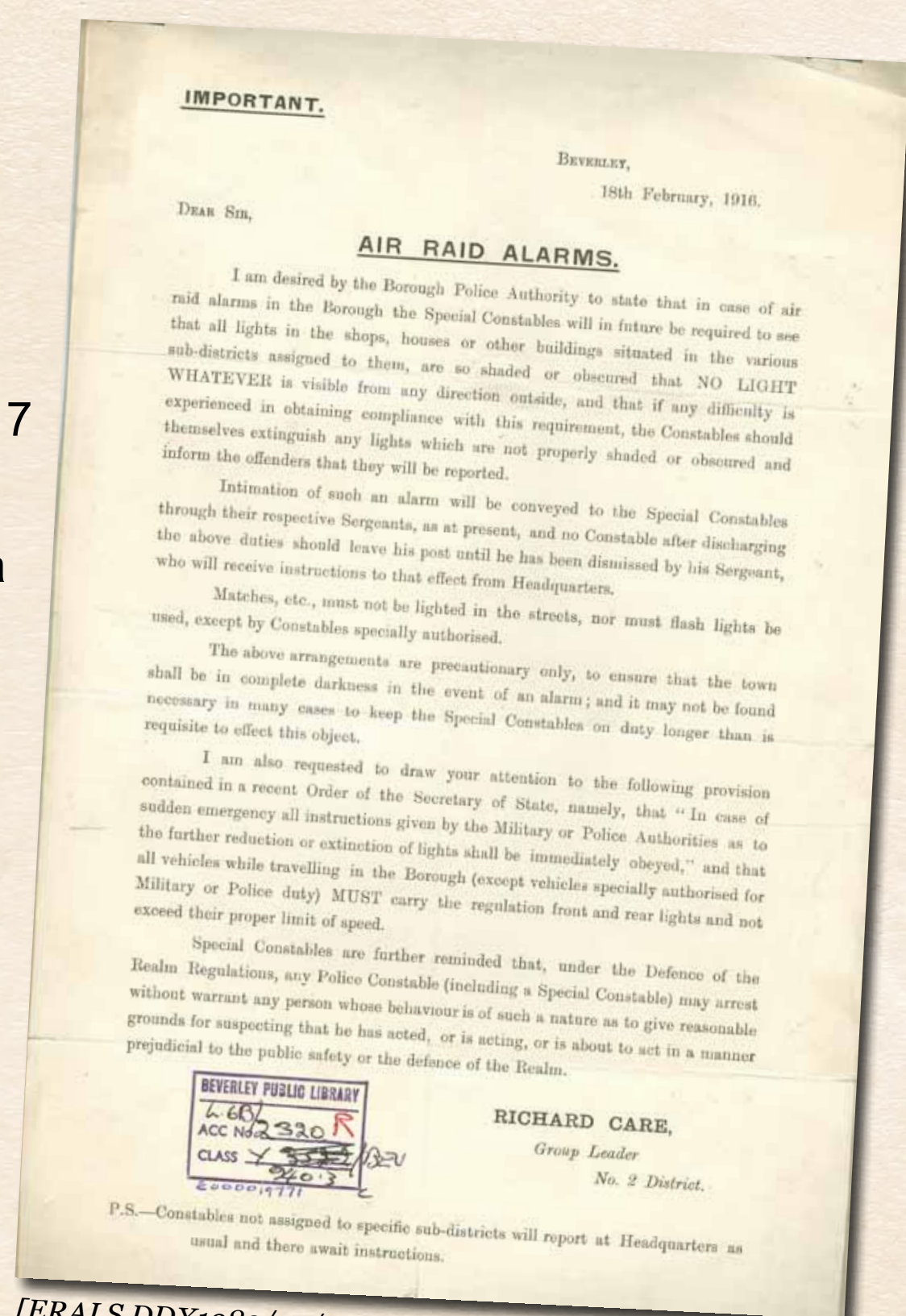
compel these actions but explained that if people didn't comply, then military authorities would make an order that everyone would have to obey.

Unlit lampposts were the cause of many collisions and three iron posts were removed from the entrance to New Walk because several people walked into them in the blackout. Apparently in Cottingham and Hull, streetlights were only completely extinguished when there was actual danger of attack. The Beverley Guardian pointed out that Beverley was free from attack because they showed no lights. In the summer the lighting of street lamps in

Beverley was discontinued altogether.

Eight married women were summoned to the Police Court for wheeling prams without lights. Seven defendants were fined 1/- while the other was fined 2/6 for being “*saucy*” to the police. In 1917 a Bishop Burton farmer was fined £5 for driving 248 sheep without a light!

In August 1918 the Chief Constable ordered that in the event of an air raid alarm lights of every description including the striking of matches were to be prohibited.



[ERALS DDX1282/33/20002]

In case of invasion

Handbills were sent to all Beverley houses explaining general conduct in case of invasion but it was felt necessary to organise able bodied men into a proper defence force.

On 28th November 1914 an Emergency Committee was formed and “*200 principal inhabitants of all classes*” were sworn in as Special Constables. The Mayor was the commandant. The first outdoor drill of the Special Constables took place in the grounds of the High School in May 1915.

A Volunteers Brigade was established for people who

were not eligible to serve in the Regiment or the Territorial Army. This was intended for Home Defence and only within the East Riding. A meeting at the Rifle Range was well attended and initially 57 men put their names down. Volunteers drilled at Admiral Walker Hall on Thursday nights. The



George Railton, of the Town Guard, in 1916. [From Christine Elston]

Volunteer Force for the East Riding was to be a combatant force. The Mayor said 250 men could be raised in Beverley.

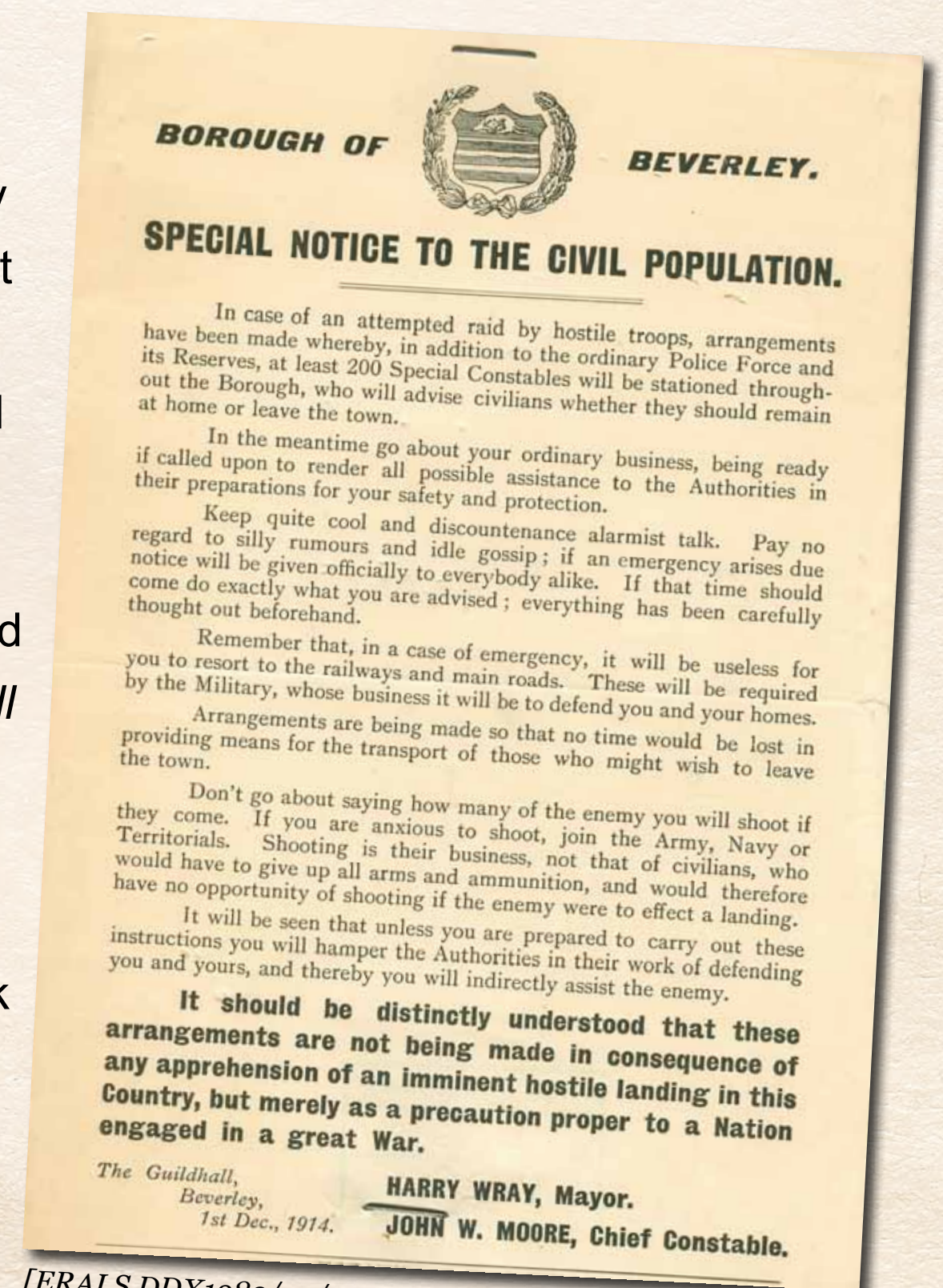
A non-combatant Town Guard was also formed and had their first route march in February 1915. A letter to the Beverley Guardian from Francis Fawcett gives his opinion about how townsfolk should act in the event of invasion: “*As the Town Guard is to be a non-combatant force...it is my intention to fire on the first armed alien enemy who comes within range of my revolver. This may lead to the burning of the town and the hanging or shooting of the Mayor.*”

The Rifle Range

A Rifle Range, located beside the Baptist Chapel on Lord Roberts Road, was presented to the town by Admiral Walker. Several gentlemen of the town funded free ammunition. Each night over 80 men practised their shooting skills. The Rifle Range Platoon of 3rd Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment were clothed, equipped and armed and drilled every Wednesday. In 1918 a suggestion that there should also be a rifle range for the Volunteers on the Westwood was opposed by the Pasture Masters because of the danger to stock and pedestrians.



Lord Wenlock, Chairman of the East Riding Council, addressing the crowd for the opening of the Beverley Rifle Range on 25th October 1909. Lord Wenlock was the founder of the East Riding Yeomanry, a volunteer cavalry unit, which for a time was popularly known as ‘Wenlock's Horse’. The rifle range was provided by Admiral Walker to encourage shooting skills. [ERYMS 1997:795]



[ERALS DDX1282/33/20001]

Shopping and shortages

Higher train fares to Hull meant that more shopping was done in Beverley, but reduced food production and problems with importing goods produced serious food shortages. Classes were held in Economic Cookery and alternative recipes and household tips were published. There were also coal and paper shortages.

At the outset of War the Mayor, Martin Westerby, announced "there was no need for panic owing to any rise in the price of provisions, shortage of currency or fear of the enemy".

By 1917 more shopping was being done in Beverley than in previous years because of higher train fares to Hull. Grocers were liable to be imprisoned if they imposed conditions on the sale of sugar, such as a requirement for other things to be bought at the same time. A greengrocer was fined 10/- for refusing to sell potatoes to people who weren't his regular customers.

Beverley tobaccoists did good business before Christmas because of people sending cigarettes to the lads at the front. Tobacco went up from 6/5d to 8/2d per pound, a rise of 2d per ounce to the consumer. Matches went up from 1/2d to 1d. There was an increase of 2d in the shilling on luxuries.

In February 1918 Free Demonstrations of Economic Cookery were held but, “Attendance has been good but there were not so many women of the working classes as the committee would like to see present”.

The withdrawal of labour from food production and the difficulty of

importing goods safely created tremendous food shortages. People

were told to drink coffee instead of tea. Beverley Grocer, Richard Care,

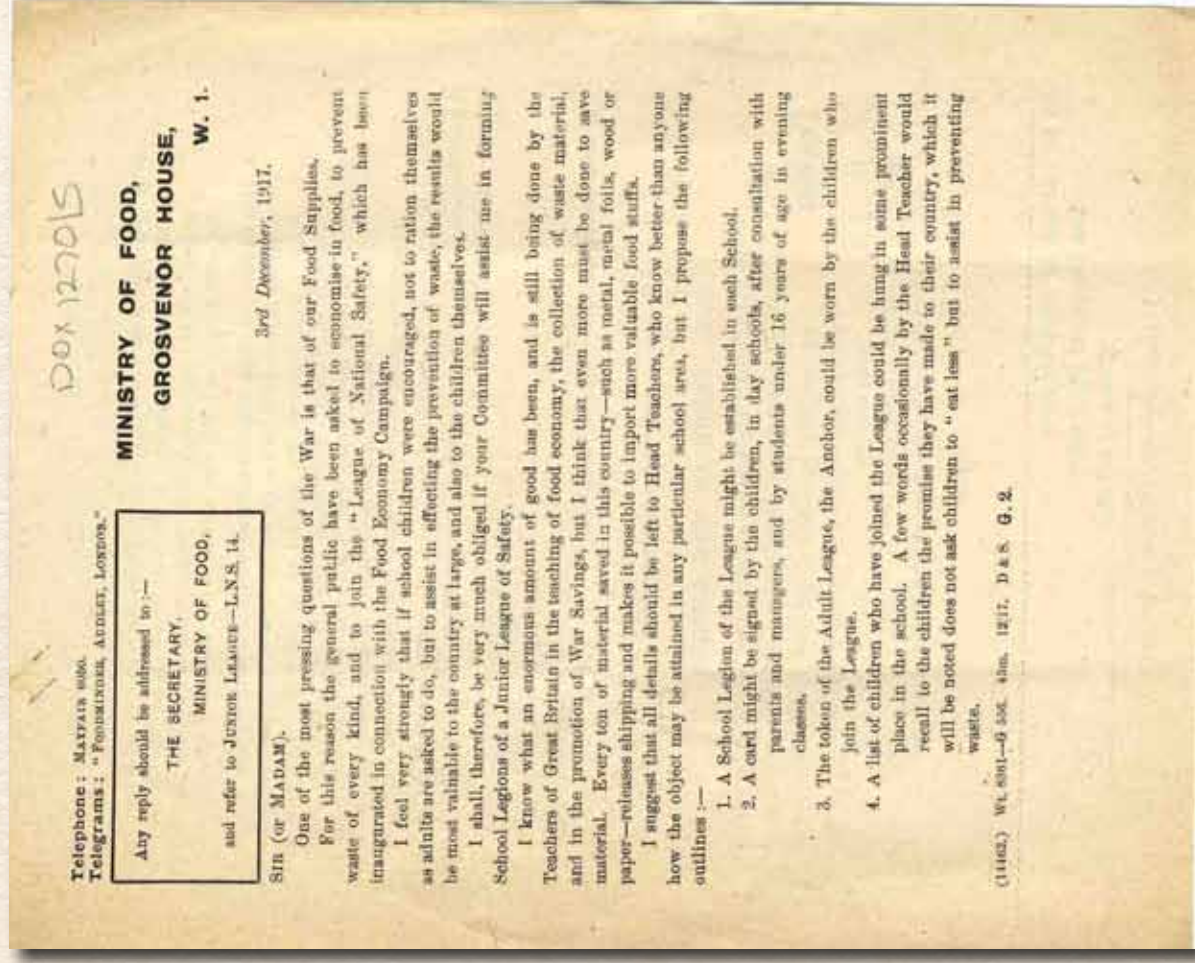
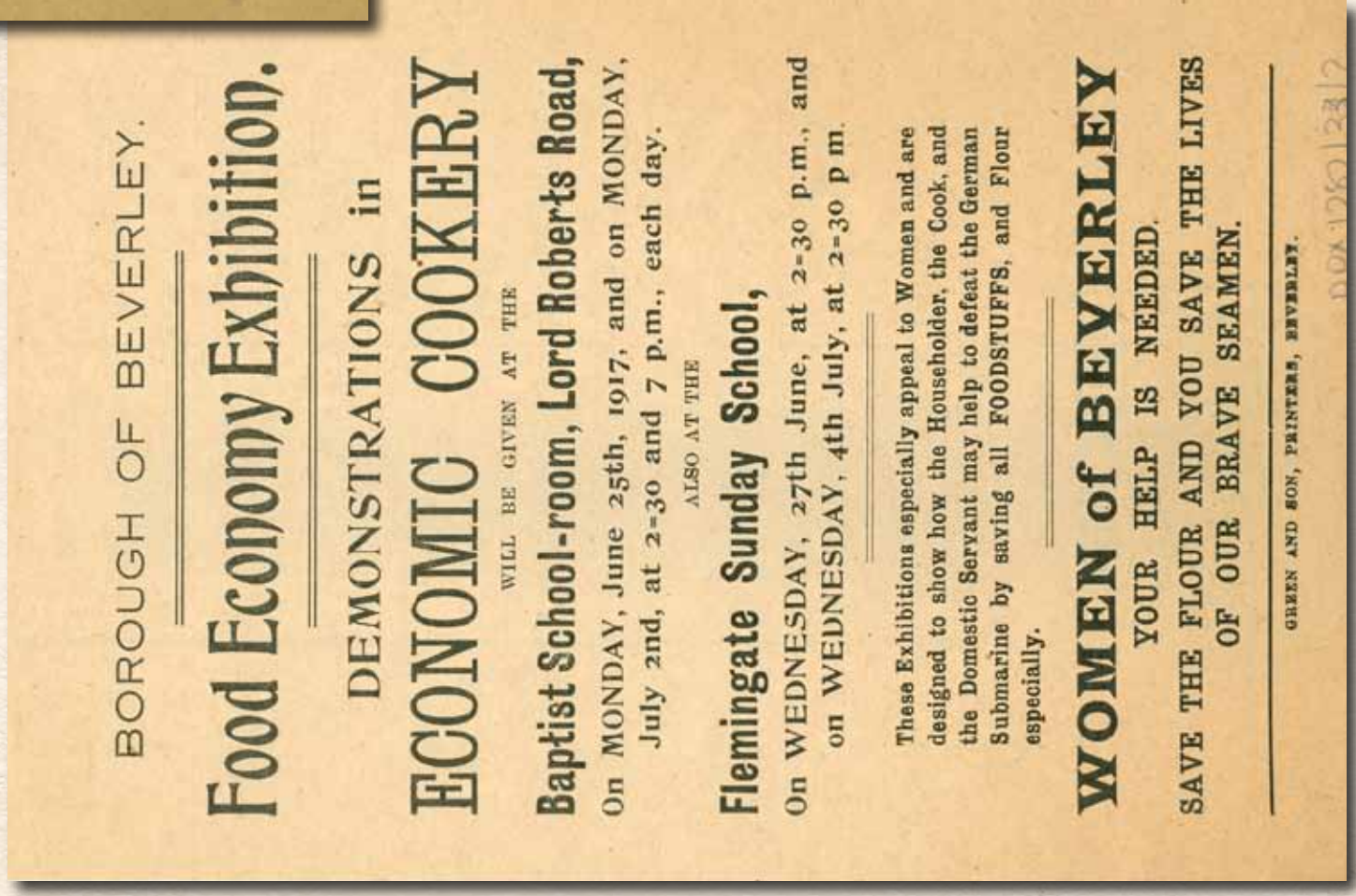
advised, “*Drink less tea, use Care’s coffees and cocoa*”, while Abrams’

shop sold "Coffee for Tea Drinkers. While tea is short we strongly advise

the people of Beverley & District to Drink Abrams' Coffee. Put plenty in

and Make it Good. Don't forget that pinch of salt".

“Fine ashes mixed with vinegar make a splendid metal polish.”



“Use remnants of candle wax for floor polish or add to starch.”

sausages were introduced. No gas or electricity should be used in places of entertainment between 10.30 p.m. and 1 p.m. the following day. Shops had to close early in 1918 to conserve coal and gas stocks.

People questioned why there was a shortage of supplies in Beverley although half the population were in France.

Coal shortages meant everyone must conserve gas and electricity. Paper was in short supply so experiments to combine 25% of waste paper with sawdust, straw, oat husks, or potato stalks were all tried with varying results.

Restaurants and cafes could not serve meals between 9.30 p.m. and 5.30 a.m., potatoes could only be served on Fridays and meat was off the menu on two days a week so vegetarian

sausages were introduced. No gas or electricity should be used in places of entertainment between 10.30 p.m. and 1 p.m. the following day. Shops had to close early in 1918 to conserve coal and gas stocks.

Rationing

There were complaints about the quality of the goods being sold, and alternatives such as “War Bread” were not popular.

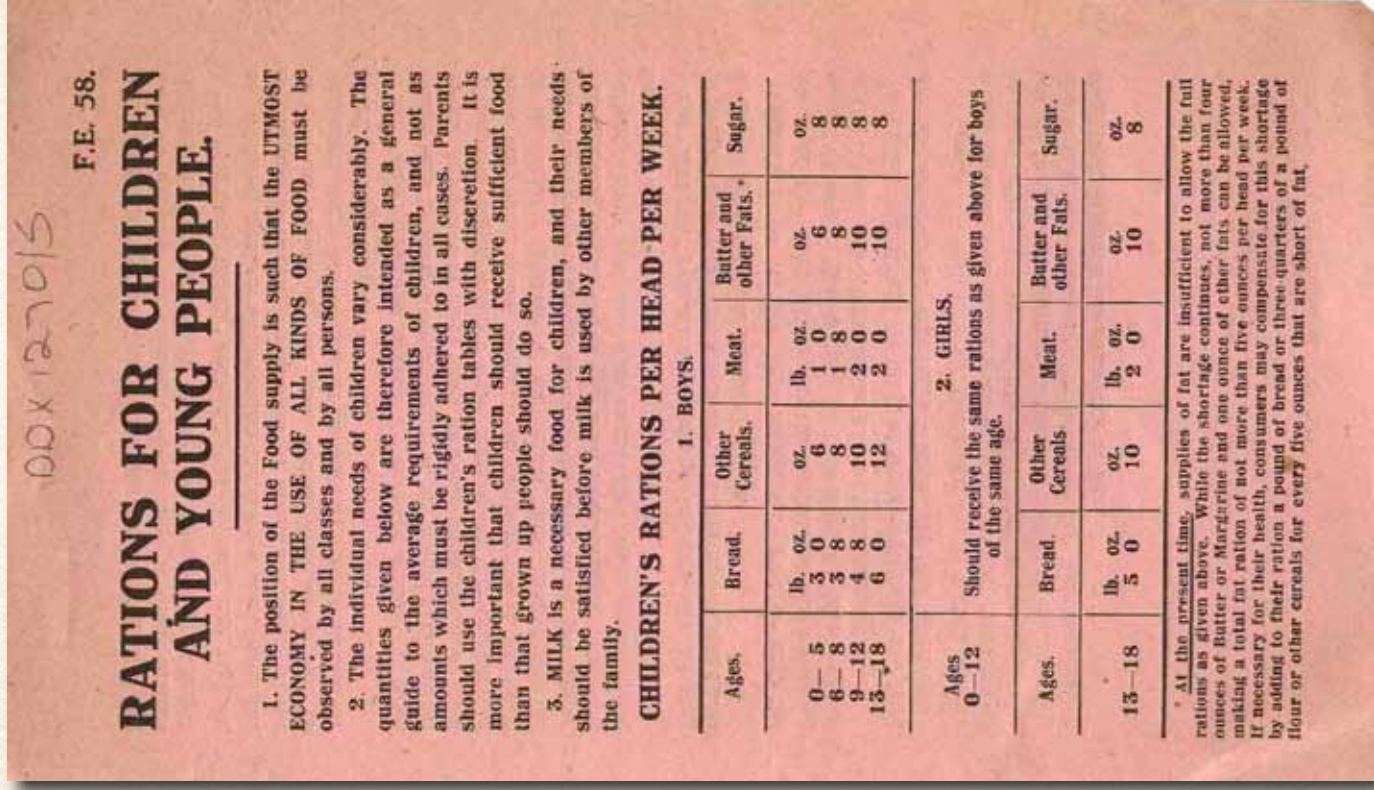
In 1917 grocers had to give their customers a declaration to fill out in return for a sugar ticket for each member of the household. And there were complaints about the quality; a Beverley mother wrote to the

Recorder, "I know sugar is restricted and sugar cargoes have been sunk.

Why are the shops in Beverley packed with chocolates and bonbons tastefully and daintily displayed when our babies are to be deprived of proper sugar?"

No one liked ‘War Bread’ which was said to cause “*rashes, indigestion, dysentery and lowering of body strength*”, and an

investigation was ordered. The price of flour had soared. There was a prohibition on baking '*light pastries*' but cakes, buns, scones and biscuits were permitted providing they had only 15% sugar. It was noted with envy that in Hull people could still buy cheesecakes, lemon and jam tarts but not in Beverley.

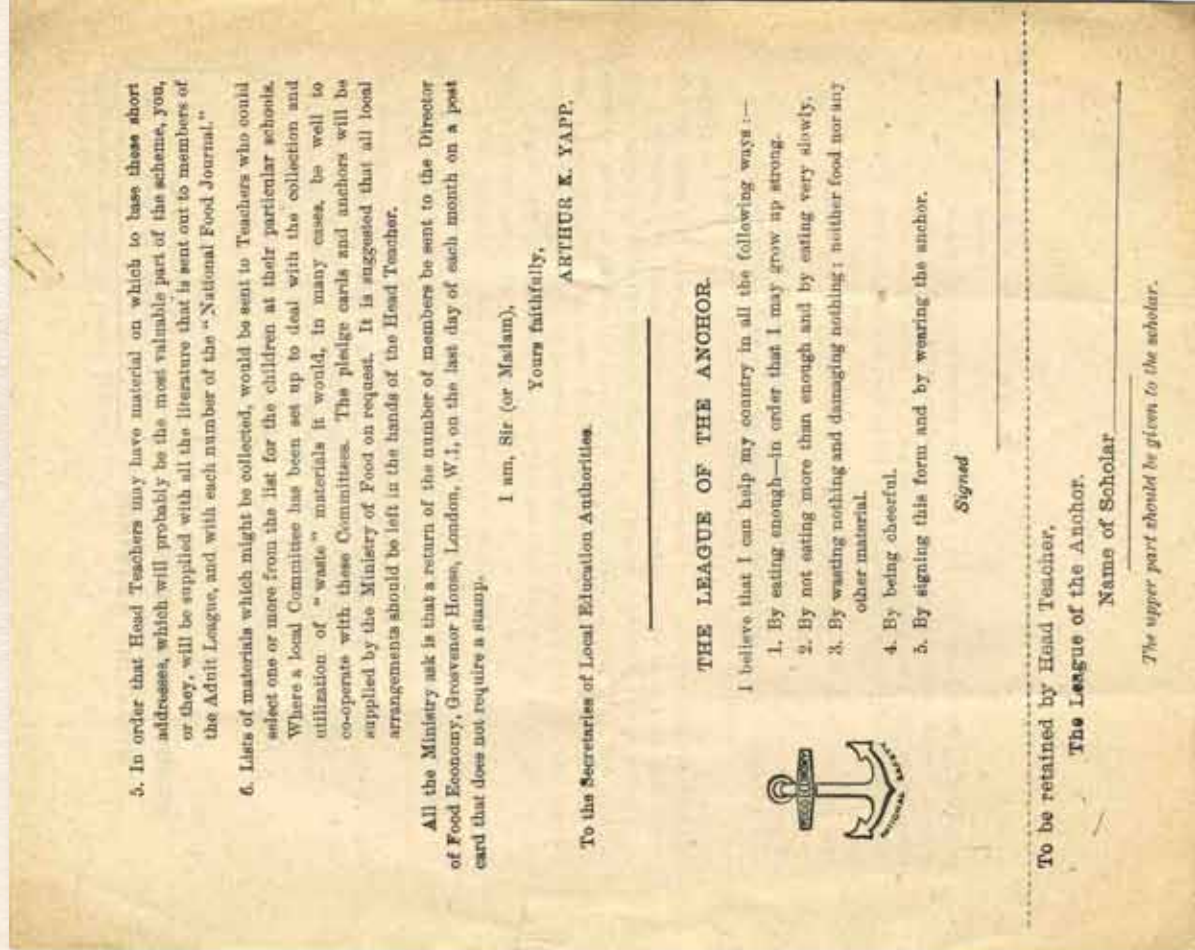
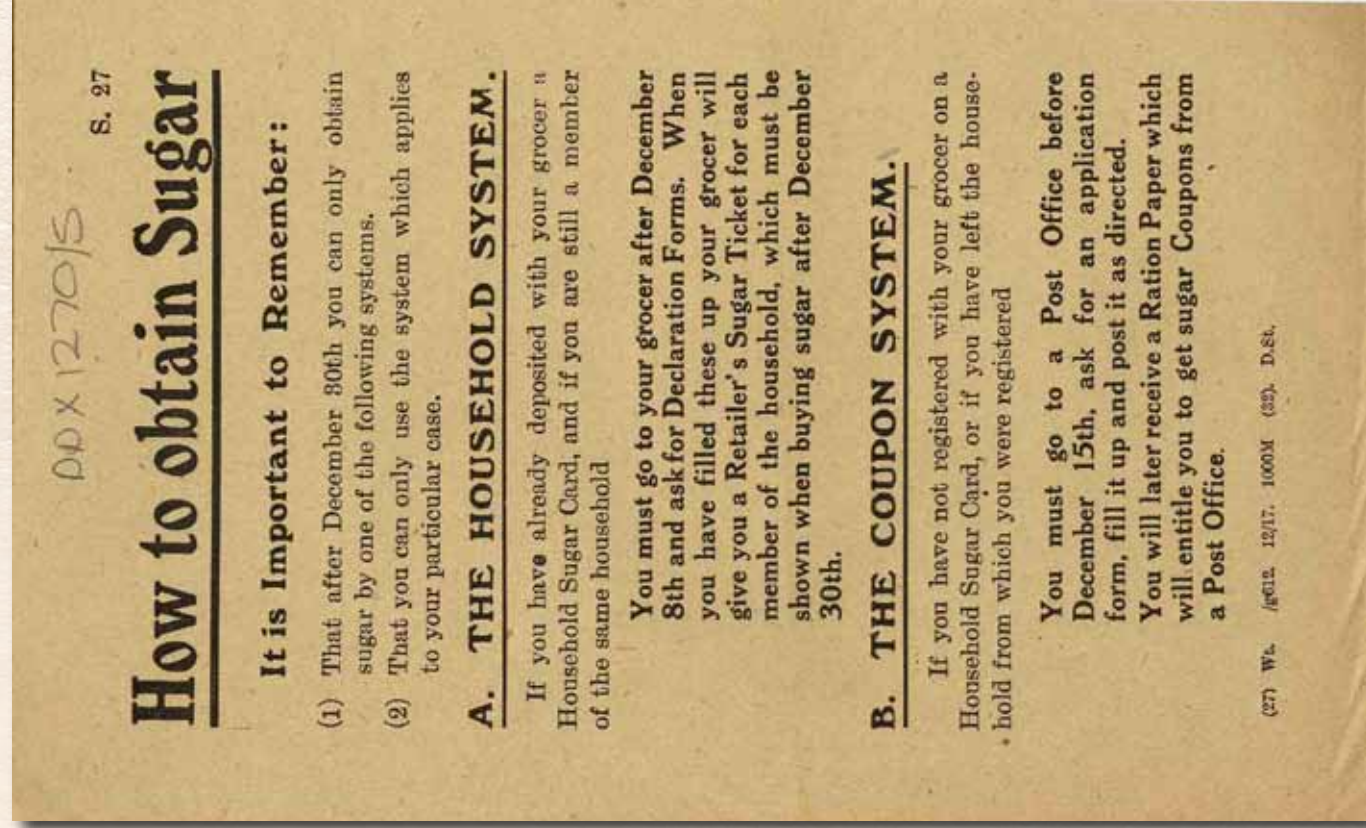


A bacon
famine
was fear

because of the cost of feeding pigs, and an outbreak of swine fever meant lots of healthy pigs were slaughtered. However, by the summer of 1918 bacon and ham were released from rationing.

Prices were regulated nationally. A potato auction was stopped by police in Beverley because the Ministry of Food had ordered that the maximum price must only be £10 per ton.

“By 1917, bitter beer was 5 times the price it was in 1914.”



“There is a fall in demand for tinned salmon and lobster.”

Allotments

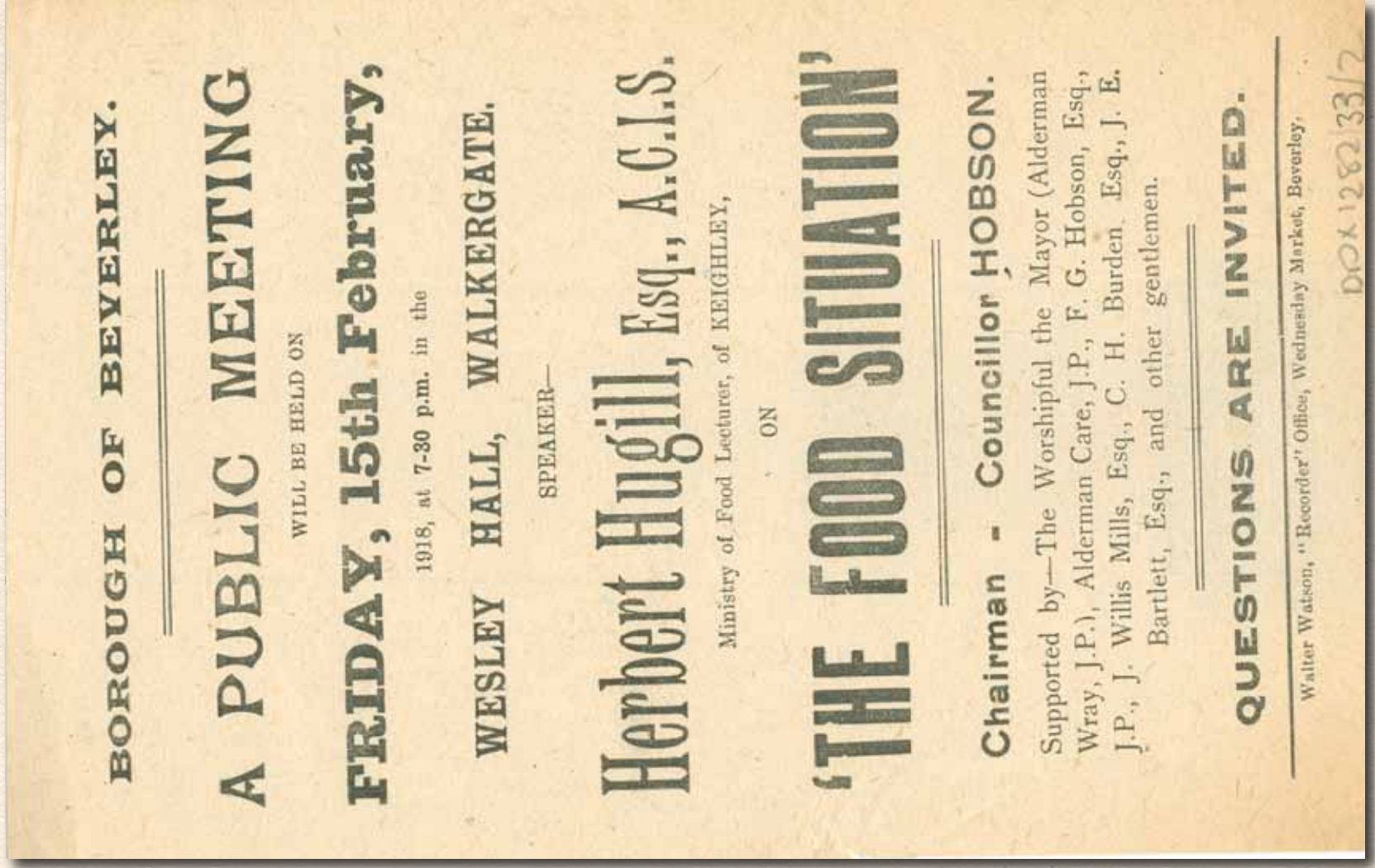
Allotments were established in many sites around the town to increase food production, and areas of pasture were ploughed and cultivated. It was not all plain sailing; market gardeners accused ‘alloters’ of undercutting them, their crops were eaten by rooks and pigeons fleeing the fighting in Europe, and one woman nearly died from eating rhubarb leaves mistaken for cabbage.

The East Riding War Agricultural Committee decided there must be an increase of food grown in the county. Beverley got its first allotments in 1914 amid fears that food stocks would not get the nation through to the next harvest. The local papers always had information on how to grow food, agricultural notes, Home Hints & Garden Gossip.

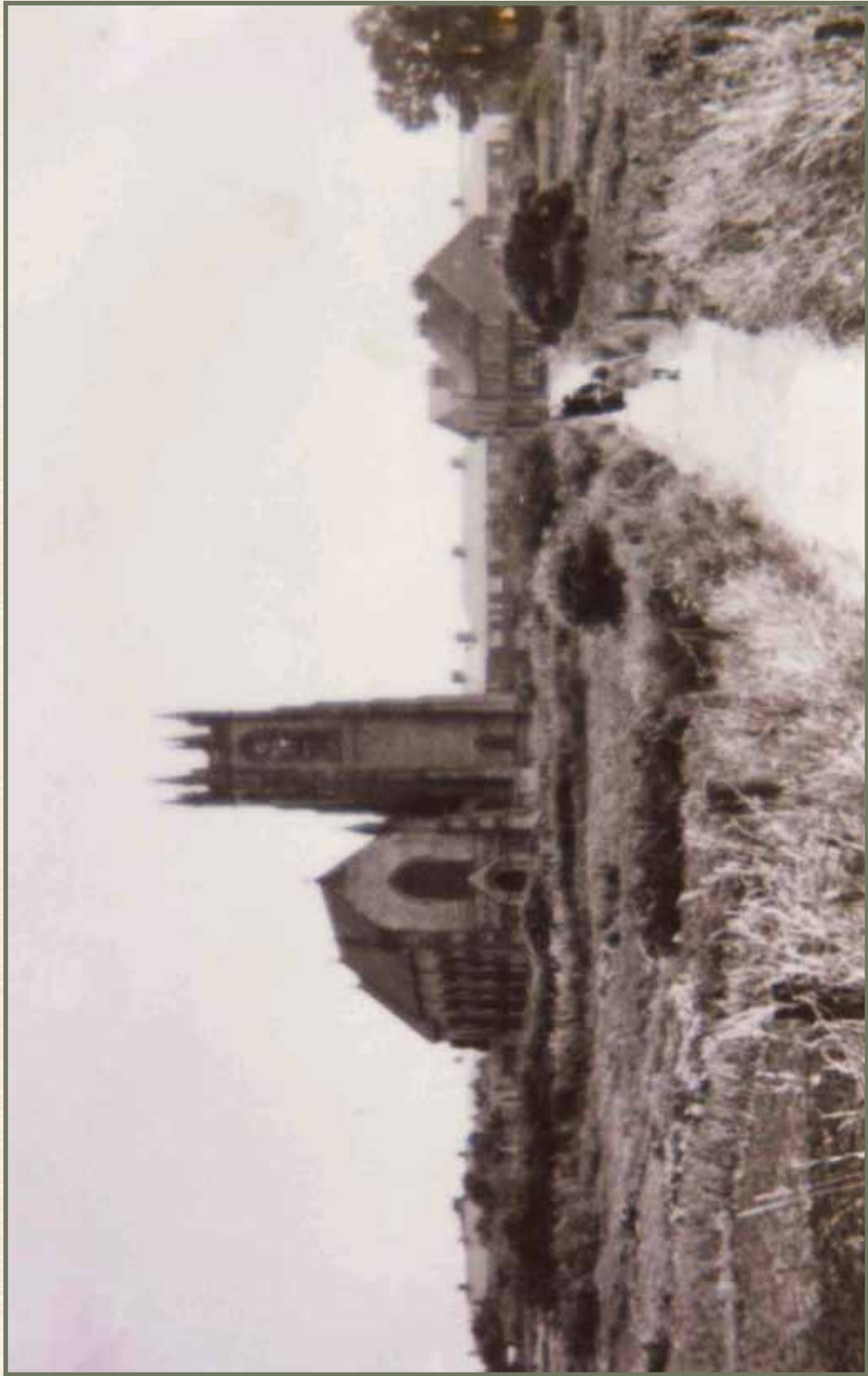
Courses on War Time Gardening were provided for nine Beverley teachers who would then train school children. Spencer School cultivated an 800 sq. yd. plot on Morton Lane and Minster Boys had some ground behind St. Nicholas’ School, fully planted up.

The Allotment Sub-Committee sought more sites that could be turned into plots for eager “alloters”. By 1917 there were 41 acres of allotments in Beverley; Kitchen Lane, Captain Samman’s field, Morton Lane, Scarr’s Field, the Football field, Wellington Terrace, Norwood, Grovehill Road, Holme Church Lane corner. The following year the committee identified about 20 acres available for 300 more allotments in Pasture Terrace, Kitchen Lane, Cattle Market Lane (2 ½ acres), and Queensgate. A further 20 acres of Figham and 3 or 4 acres of Westwood on the Fishwick Mill site could be ploughed and cultivated.

Allotment holders had their problems. They were accused of undercutting Market Gardeners and criticised for working on Good Friday, but protested they were doing “*the best piece of good work possible*”. The use of cooked rhubarb leaves instead of cabbage almost killed a woman.



[ERALS DDX1282/33/20005]



St Nicholas Church from the allotments. [ERALS DDX1525/1/1 (50)]

And when an “alloter” was disappointed at not reaching coal after all his digging, he was told, “*Cheer up, digging will keep you warm!*” There were problems with children ‘scrumpping’ apples and one man complained about losing a third of his shallots to thieves.

They also received lots of good advice, such as that allotment holders should plant as close to their neighbours plot as possible so “*your plants can benefit from his soil*”. In addition to the satisfaction of providing the town with food, the Allotment sub-committee decided to award prizes for the best cultivated allotments.



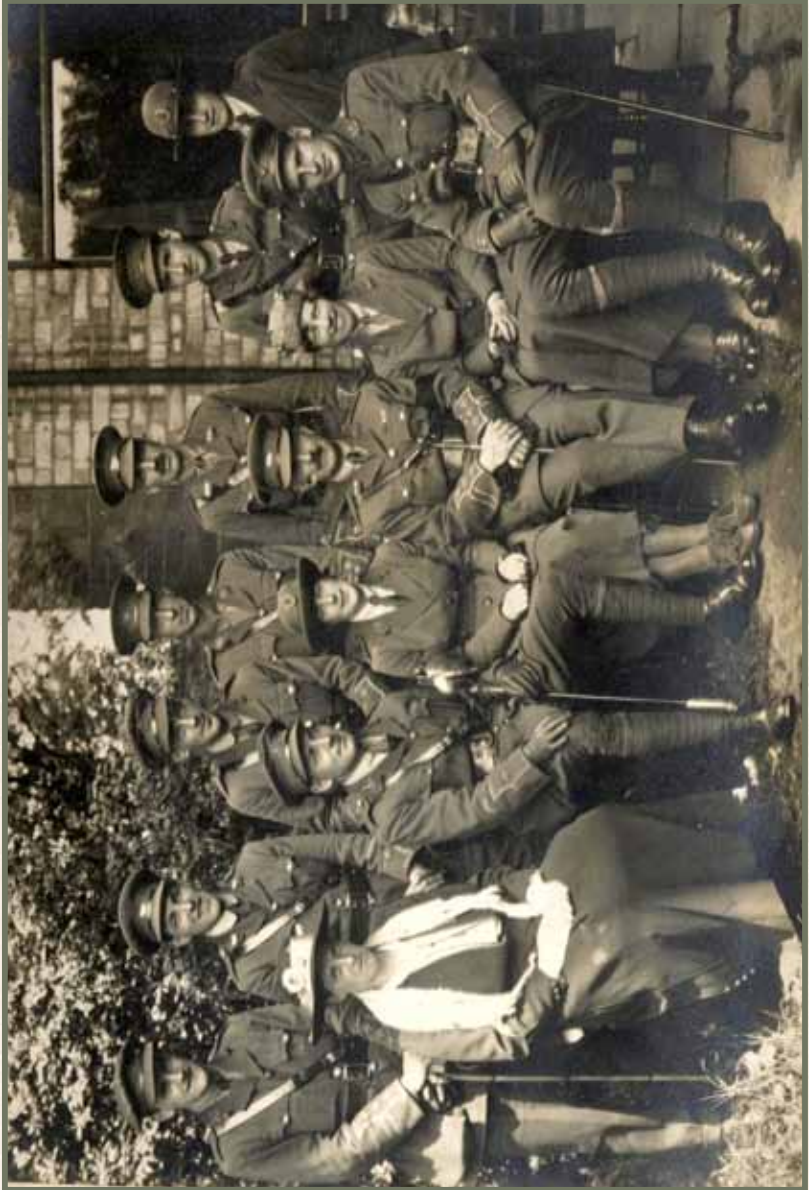
Many of today’s allotments were originally established during the First World War. [ERALS PH1/1/3]

Farming and Frugality

Many measures were put in place to increase food production both nationally and locally. Large areas of grassland were ploughed up despite local concerns, and people were encouraged to help with the harvest.

A Royal Proclamation, “*Practise the Greatest Economy and Frugality in the use of every species of grain*” was issued.

In 1915 the Education Committee discussed whether it was feasible to allow boys aged 12 to 14 to help with the harvest which occurred after the end of the summer holidays that year. The Mayor said that parents who allowed their children to work on the harvest could probably be summoned but it was likely that Magistrates would let them off as they had been giving their services to help the country. Boy scouts were encouraged to kill rabbits as a national and public service.



From 1917 the Victoria Barracks was promoted to a role as an agricultural distribution centre.

[From the album of Major Jack Lee Smith, President East Riding Yeomanry Old Comrades Association (died 1968). On loan to Hedon Museum and copied with their permission and the permission of the estate of Mr. W. Palmer]

In 1917 the East Riding War Agricultural Committee decided 70,000 acres of grassland should be ploughed up, which would require 450 tractors. Farmers were unhappy about ploughing land which could feed cattle or sheep but was largely unsuitable for corn.

In 1918 the Cultivation of Lands Order said that not less than 60% of arable land should be sown with the following crops for Harvest 1919 – wheat, barley, oats, rye, flax, potatoes or carrots. By mid 1918 the area under corn and potatoes in the East Riding increased by 90,000 acres and a good harvest was expected. Soldiers, women, and 40 German POWs billeted in camps would get in the harvest.

Horse racing had been stopped on the Westwood. Foxhunting was prohibited and hounds would be sent to the USA and returned after the war in the belief that tons of crops would be saved and men released for the forces. 50% of hounds were destroyed.

Testimonies from Townspeople

Local people sometimes experienced the war even when not serving. Their stories were reported in the local paper and give an insight into the problems that were common at that time.

Miss Mary Hewson of Beverley was on holiday in France when war was declared. The imminent threat was not taken very seriously by tourists; 60,000 Americans and 10,000 English were estimated to be in France. Miss Hewson told the newspaper, “*While I was sight-seeing in Paris, I saw posters about the order for mobilisation. There were crowds around the Post Offices and barracks. Women were weeping. I went to the Scottish Church and it was closed, which I thought was strange. When I got back to the hotel I was told all foreigners had to leave Paris by midnight and they must only take what they could carry.*

On the Monday I joined huge queues at the British Consulate to get a permit to leave; had to pay 2/6d for the stamp. I waited for a couple of days hoping the queues would die down but still had to queue for seven hours for a form from railway officials. When I discovered I had lost my handbag containing money, tickets and passport I was very upset but a kind railway official searched and found it on the railway line. It took 12 hours to get to Dieppe.

We got to Victoria by 10p.m., caught a bus to Kings Cross and the midnight train to Hull, arriving at 5 in the morning. I eventually got to Beverley at 7.20a.m. on the Sunday.”

Miss Kate Brown was a housekeeper working in France when war broke out. She was liberated when Lille was recaptured by the British on October 26th 1918.

In 1918 Henry Lush, the son-in law of Uriah Butters, was negotiating a contract to supply asphalt paving in Berlin at the outbreak of war. He had lived in Germany for 10 years. Like all Englishmen found there he became a civilian prisoner of war. He was released after 3 years of captivity. His wife was with him when captured but was allowed to return home. They were surprised when England declared war as no one there expected it. Towards the end of his imprisonment they were given only potatoes to eat and relied on what was sent from home. When he got back to Beverley he was surprised at how well the shops looked as there was nothing in the Berlin shops.



Uriah Butters' drapers shop in Toll Gavel. [ERALS DDX1525/10/52]

Pigeon Post

Pigeons were used to carry messages throughout the war. However, some of them were not too keen!

Pigeon racing had been stopped so pigeons being flown were in training or in the service of the Government. There was a penalty for shooting one or not handing over an injured one because it would be regarded as helping the enemy.

Mr. G.B. Stephenson of North Bar Without was working in Cairo at the outbreak of War and gave over his entire stock of 400 trained carrier pigeons to the military authorities. He discovered 4 years



Pigeon messenger with message cannister on its leg. [From www.pacificempirecorporation.com]

later that some of them, described as “*The Pigeon Deserters*” had travelled over 500 miles back to their loft in Cairo.

The Pigeon Service saved the lives of the crews of flying boats and seaplanes. 717 messages of distress were carried by pigeons from aircraft down on the water. Some of the pigeons flew at more than 60 mph.

War horses

Horses were requisitioned to pull artillery, ambulances and supply wagons. The loss of thoroughbred horses caused concern about the future of horse breeding as over 250,000 had been killed by May 1917.

Britain used horses throughout the war. Not only did they improve the morale of the men but they were better at pulling artillery, ambulances and supply wagons through the thick mud. The loss of thoroughbred horses to the front caused concern in Beverley about the future



Horses commandeered for the war outside the Fox & Coney in South Cave, 1914. [ERALS DDX1525/1/14,(55)]

of horse breeding when yearlings and 2 and 3 year-olds were requisitioned. In the first few weeks of the war 170,000 horses had been supplied to help the war effort. Prices dropped drastically. A horse sold pre-war for £2,000, in 1915 resold for £105. The excessive mortality of horses bought for the army was a worry; 250,000 died in Europe from the start of war to May 1917. It was said, men were replaceable, horses were not.

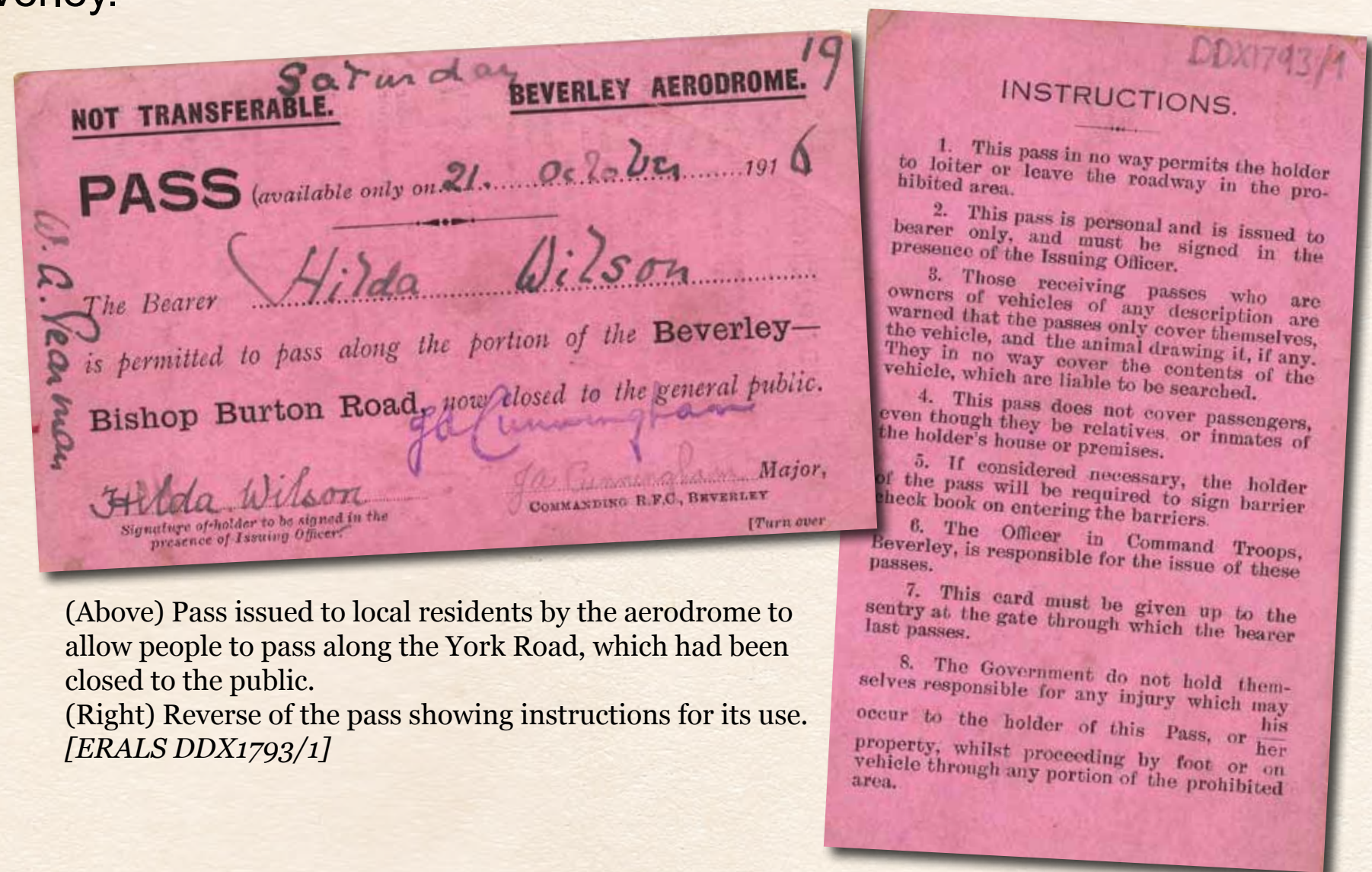
“A ‘non-combatant’ horse in a field in Swinemoor Lane was observed seizing the pump handle in its teeth to get himself a drink.”

Westwood

Beverley's Westwood was quickly requisitioned for an aerodrome in 1914, although its location was not without its problems. A total of 17 airmen were killed while serving at RFC Beverley, their names are commemorated in a plaque at Bishop Burton Church. The 13th Hull Battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment was also encamped on Westwood for a while.

The aerodrome

In 1914 the Military Authorities requisitioned 179 acres of Westwood, including the race course and part of the Hurn, for an aerodrome. The main road to York was closed and sentries placed at the junction with Newbald Road and at Killingwoldgraves to inspect the passes of people working in Beverley.



(Above) Pass issued to local residents by the aerodrome to allow people to pass along the York Road, which had been closed to the public.
(Right) Reverse of the pass showing instructions for its use. [ERALS DDX1793/1]

The flying area was north and west of the race course, with support buildings and hangars erected to the south and west of today's grandstand. In June 1917 one of the aeroplane sheds was used as a new Aeroplane Repair Section. By April 1918 there were 332 staff on the site including 18 officers, 40 officers under instruction and 128 rank and file. There were 24 aircraft. It was necessary to train pilots and observers in Canada and Canadian squadrons passed through Beverley on short stays.



An aerial view of the First World War airfield on the Westwood in 1917. The York Road is on the left of the picture, running toward Bishop Burton at the top and Beverley at the bottom. [ERALS DDX815/1]

In the early days the pilots were carrying out aerial patrols and training in the primitive aircraft of the time. The builders of the Black Mill would have been surprised to learn of the help the Mill's position gave to airmen on their final approach to their racecourse landing ground. The landing ground on the Hurn was described by one tense trainee pilot of 47 Squadron as "like landing on a grassy pimple with the landing strip receding on the far side of the pimple".

Bishop Burton Church has a plaque commemorating the 17 airmen who were killed in flying accidents at RFC Beverley. "Promising Pilot", Second Lt. Kenneth Vick had been in the RFC only 3 months when he was killed in an air crash on Thursday 5th July 1917. A sergeant saw a portion of the plane fall away and the rest crashed to earth. An air mechanic heard the noise of a breakage a quarter of a minute before the pilot ceased transmitting his wireless telegraphic apparatus. There was a verdict of accidental death.

In a "Triple Air Tragedy" in April 1918 two planes collided in mid-air. One plane turned and clipped the other's wing, both fell to the ground. Lt. Harry Robinson, 2nd Lt. John Clayton and Lt. Evan Howell all died and were found among the wreckage. In the same place, Lt. Sgt. Linden Richardson crashed to the ground. The previous evening he had attended a memorial service to the other three.



An aircraft on the Westwood in 1918. [ERALS DDX1525/1/13 (38)]

In July 1918 2nd Lt. Henry Teetzel, 20, was a flying instructor at the aerodrome. He was ordered to fly a plane back to Lincolnshire but had engine trouble at 300 ft. just after takeoff and nose-dived. He died the following day.

Encampments and training

The 13th Hull Battalion had 1250 men encamped on Westwood. The Y.M.C.A. worked among troops helping with post, food and entertainment. Workers from various religious denominations offered help – Wesleyans worked on Tuesdays, the Minster on Wednesday, Congregationalists on Thursdays and the Baptists on Fridays, with St. Nicholas' Church on Saturdays.



Pre-1914 Army Reserve camp on the Westwood. [From Peter Calvert]

In October 1915 John Westerby, Clerk to the Pasture Masters wrote, "the relations between the Military Authorities and the Pasture Masters during the whole period of encampment of the Brigade have been of the most cordial nature, with one exception which threatened the wholesale destruction of trees on the Westwood."



Sergeant Gardiner's grave. [From Denis Price]

Beverley's Westwood was also in constant use by all elements of the military with training such as trench digging and signalling being carried out here. Sergeant E.J.Gardiner of the East Yorkshire Regiment, is recorded in September 1914 as having suddenly died of a heart attack on Beverley Westwood when instructing recruits. As a 58 year old soldier recalled to the colours he reflects the urgency of the times.

Changes in the workplace

Many local businesses were badly affected by the loss of manpower. Some used women or injured ex-servicemen in place of the men they had lost, while others had to reduce their opening hours because of staff shortages. Women were paid only half the wage of equivalent male workers.

Beverley businesses not only had to contend with new war taxes including income tax, super tax, postage and 2d. stamp duty on cheques but were also badly affected by the huge loss of manpower to the War.

Where they wished to keep key workers, the local tribunals would offer substitute, injured ex-servicemen. Queensgate Whiting Works released 20 men to the army and had only 6 men left, the rest were girls. Briggs and Powell had to change their opening hours due to staff being enlisted.

Hodgson & Son's Tannery had to lose many men but willingly equipped a platoon and supported those on the front line.

The Headmaster of St. Mary's Boys School complained that his teachers had to teach two classes due to lack of staff.

In 1917 male staff being recruited for the services meant female staff had to work on the male wards at Broadgate Hospital. The Sisters of Mercy looked after 20 Belgian orphans aged 6 to 18 accompanied by 18 nuns who had escaped from their burning convent in Antwerp. 14 of the children went to St. Johns School where they quickly learned English.



Munitions workers at John Cherry & Sons, engineers of Becksid, in 1915. [From Edna Garnett]



Munitions workers, some with shell cases, from Cherry's engineering works on Becksid, 1915. [ERALS DDX1896/2]



Workers at the smithy on Tiger Lane in 1914. [From Dianne Smith]

Many farmers believed that if they took women on they would lose more men to the military. However, one farmer who had trained up 6 girls said he had never met any young man who could equal these girls in their intelligence: *"The better class they came from the better workers they were."*

Women received only half a man's wage. Irish labourers got 50/- per week for helping with the harvest. The 'Women on the Land' Committee reported that women between 18 and 40 got 15/- per week during their 3 weeks training, then 18/- per week once trained, plus a free uniform. Munitionettes received 32/- a week.



Armstrong's munitions workers in 1915. [From Bill and Pat Goble]

"There was not a single able-bodied man to be found in institutions... and some of the 'ancients' had been found odd jobs at wages which, before the war, would have seemed impossible."

Local advertisers doing their bit

An advertiser featured an 'Extract' from a letter by "one of the Boys" stating, *"I always used to get Good Shirts from A.M. Snow in the Market Place so if you are thinking of sending a parcel along will you get me one please, also some socks"*.

"It is up to the farmer in these strenuous times to make the land produce as much food for Man and Beast as possible. It would be a profitable investment to use 'Tigars' Celebrated Manures".

"Comfort in the trenches – an Air Pillow will 'Gladden the Heart of your soldier boy".



A.M. Snow's shop in Market Place. [ERALS DDX1544/1/1 (34)]

"Be Patriotic, grow potatoes and help to beat the Germans. We can supply you with reliable seed. W. Rutherford & Son."

In 1918 a shop selling sewing machines and prams pledged all money taken during War Weapons Week would be put into War Bonds so *"Help win the War by making your purchases from Wm. Hutchinson"*.



Richard Care's shop in Market Place. [ERYMS 2007.30.8]

Women's role

Many different opportunities opened up for women as men left the town for the front. Servants left middle class houses and received a regular wage for the first time. Women worked in munitions and on the land, or became post women and police officers. These changes in women's lives brought worries about reduced birth rates because of the strains on the women's health from overwork.

The ladies column of the Beverley Guardian in 1916 asked, *"What can I do to set a man free for the fighting line?"* This appealed directly to doctors, nurses, banks and transport companies.

The war years saw 1,600,000 women employed by the Government nationally, on public transport, in the Post Office, in commercial offices, working on the land and in factories. In the Beverley Guardian's 'Situations Vacant' column, the majority of jobs were for women. Servants left middle class houses when their employers needed to economise and many never went back into service. Beverley's first part-time post woman, Lizzie Baker of Wood Lane, was appointed and, like other women drawn from domestic service, received a regular wage for the first time. The Beverley Borough Police Force also appointed its first female constable, a Mrs Jessop.



Women of the Beverley Whiting Works in 1916. [From Christine Elston]

However, women taking men's jobs had to cope with a lot of criticism. A letter to the Beverley Guardian complained, *"Women postmen don't deliver the post as early as postmen did."*

The Women's Land Army was sawing timber, looking after calves, baling fodder but not carrying corn. At a meeting about women doing farm work, *"Mrs. O'Brien caused mild excitement by standing on a table to display her agricultural costume of breeches and leather leggings"*.



Poster promoting the work of the land girls. The campaign was effective and eventually over 260,000 women were working on the land. This number dwarfed the 87,000 who served in the Land Army in the Second World War.



First World War land girl (on the right), with another member of the women's services, probably a tram attendant. [From Sally Pickstone]

However, many believed that women's priority should be child-rearing; the Guardian commented *"If a woman spends her powers on the present like a man, she cannot have them for the future of which she is nature's organ and trustee"*.



Female workers at Hodgson's Tannery in 1918. [From Judith Ringrose]

The nation was worrying about the declining birth rate in 1917 but in Beverley *"we are glad to remark, large families are very frequently met with"*. The lack of babies was attributed to women being *"attracted by high wages in the munitions factories and elsewhere.... They are working harder and straining their health"*. In April, May and June of 1917, 52 births were recorded in the town and the Beverley Guardian commented, *"This is not bad for war time"*.

Encouraging further fertility, National Baby Week was marked by a 'Bonny Babies Competition' staged at the Playhouse. 55 babies were entered; Nurse Godbold's baby won with 1,088 votes and received £5. An increase in the number of male births was explained by *"mothers being fatigued by work in Munitions and work usually done by men so can only produce male children"*.

In 1918 women were urged to quit home for the factory and sign up at the local Labour Exchange. *"In the past you have asked for opportunities, in the present you have shown what you can do when you are trusted with national work. In the future it must be proved that you can respond to even greater calls."*

The War Work of many women was nationally recognised, such as Jennie Hopperton of Beverley, a VAD with St. Johns Ambulance Association, who was brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for valuable services rendered in connection with the War. The Belgian King awarded the Medaille de la Reine Elizabeth to Mrs Kirby of St. Mary's Vicarage for her work with Belgian refugees and soldiers. The Military Medal was awarded to Miss Constance Todd for devotion to duty and presence of mind during an enemy raid.

"Who was the young woman calmly walking along Toll Gavel wearing grey trousers? An excited crowd followed in her wake but she promptly turned right about and went back again!"

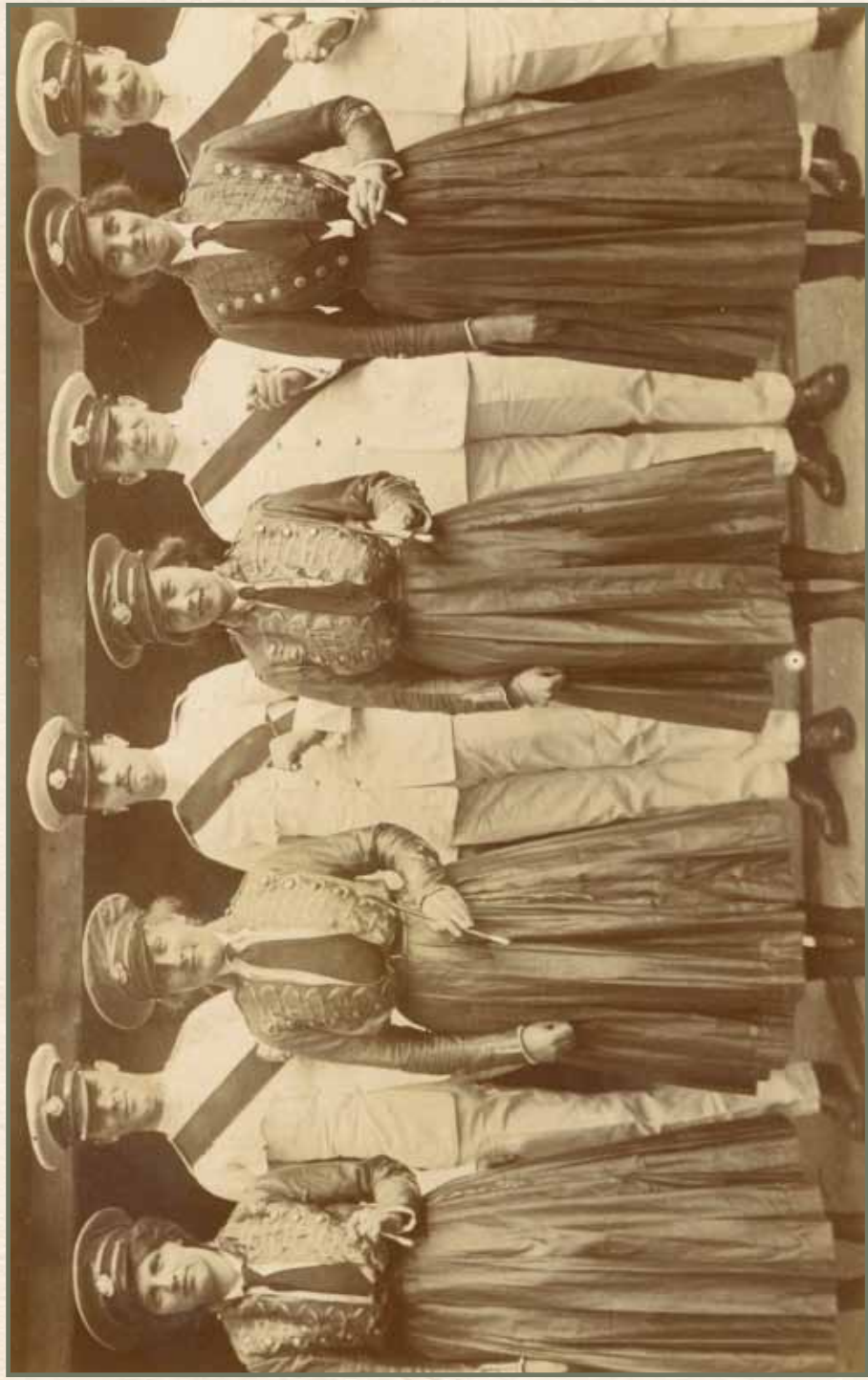
Keeping Beverley entertained

Keeping up morale was considered to be very important so, although many activities such as fireworks and horse and pigeon racing were stopped for the duration, there were concerts and films to take their place.

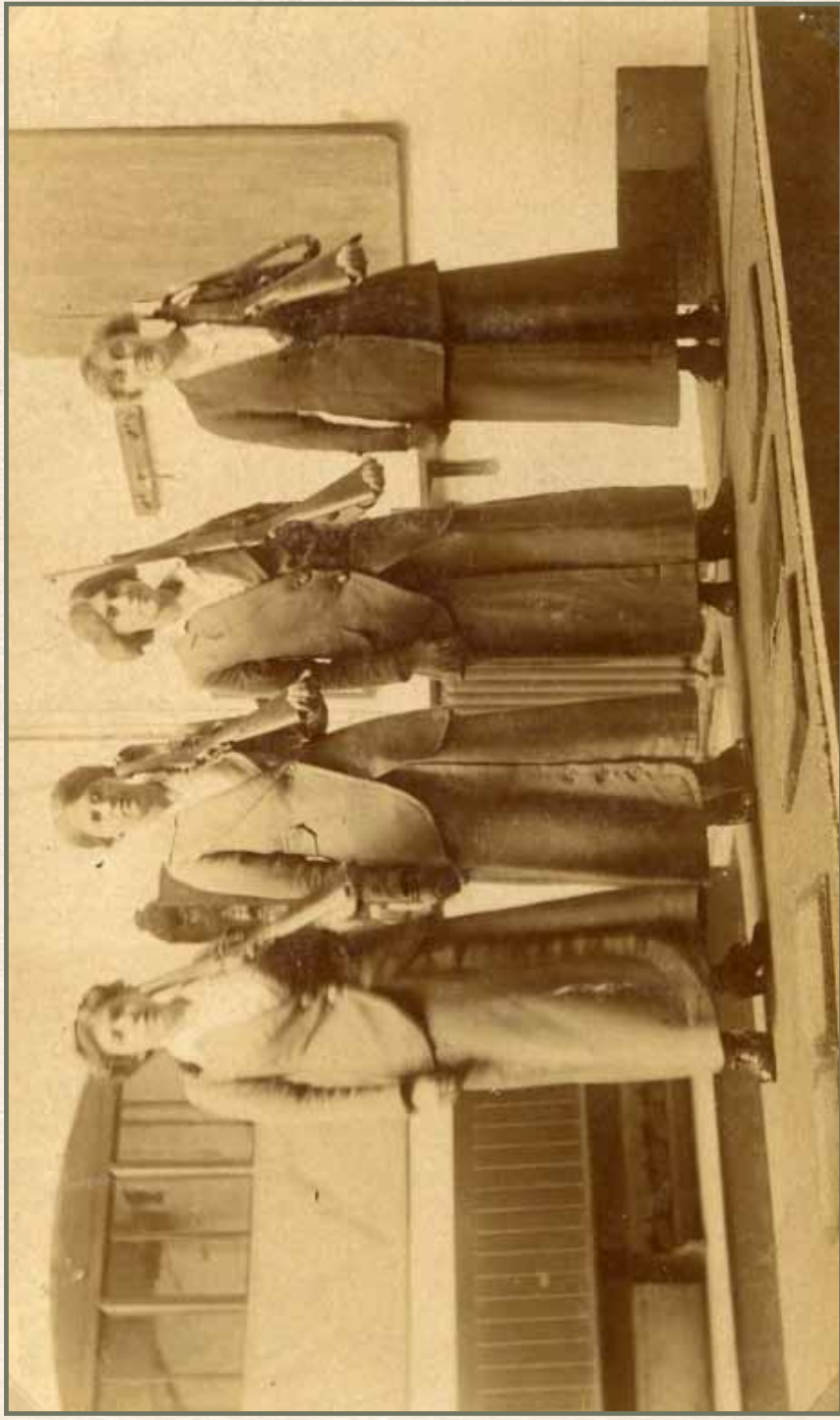
The Playhouse cinema opened in 1911 and the Marble Arch on Butcher Row in 1916 bringing in the audiences with plenty of comedies and feel-good films. Films were so popular that in 1917 the Playhouse got a special licence to open on Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Audiences loved films like ‘*Shoulder Arms*’ (1918) in which Charlie Chaplin captures the Kaiser and brings him to the Allied lines.

Innovations in film production brought films of the “*deeds taking place in the great European War*” and it was now possible for audiences to be “*amazed, amused and instructed by the extraordinary life of the ocean 100ft. below the surface*”.



Above: Military concert in the Assembly Rooms in 1915, and (below) in 1916. [From *Roslie Sylvester*]



To boost spirits, the YMCA presented 3 concerts a week for seldom less than 1,000 men, mostly West Riding miners. The Armed Forces helped to keep the town entertained by taking part in concerts and arranging sports days. A Regimental Sports Day on the Westwood included such diverting events as tent pegging, lemon cutting (for officers), wrestling on horseback and a fancy dress one mile race.

Ernest Symmons, proprietor of the Playhouse, filmed an RAF Sports Day in which local celebrities took part. The crowds particularly enjoyed a race for the Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), which had been formed in 1917.

From the start of the war no fireworks or bonfires were to be lit in Beverley. In 1915 horse racing had been discontinued on the Race Course when soldiers had been billeted there. Pigeon racing was also stopped. However, Beverley Library reported an increase in the reading of novels.

Because heavy drinking was thought to slow down armament production there was a Government campaign to cut down on drinking. By 1917, bitter beer was 5 times the price it was in 1914. In 1918 there was a further increase in the duty on spirits, beer duty was doubled.

All Royal Households became ‘dry’. As beer became scarce, publicans stopped serving pints; landlords were selling beer by the glass which equalled a third of a pint. ‘Government’ beer was not popular in Beverley. Many farmers produced their own beer for their workers.

All Royal Households became ‘dry’. As beer became scarce, publicans stopped serving pints; landlords were selling beer by the glass which equalled a third of a pint. ‘Government’ beer was not popular in Beverley. Many farmers produced their own beer for their workers.

“A Regimental Sports Day included lemon cutting for officers.”

The fun of fundraising

Fundraising became the order of the day, with many charities competing for subscriptions. Numerous activities were organised to raise money both for local charities and for soldiers, planes and tanks.

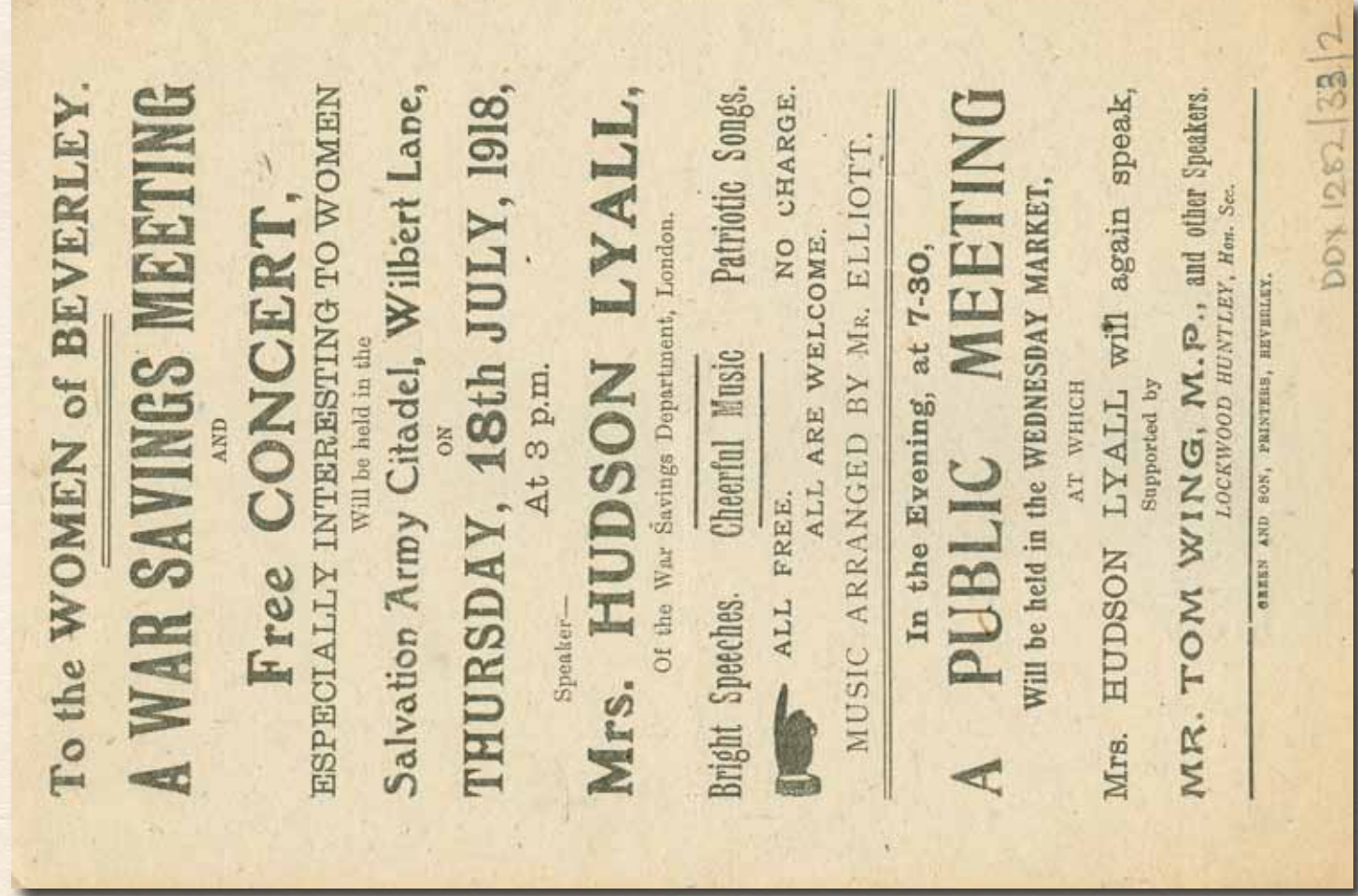
Every week lots of “good causes” pleaded for money from the “loyal little town of Beverley”. So many charities such as the Cottage Hospital, Waitfs and Strays, the Local Prisoners of War Fund, the Cigarette Fund for East Yorkshires and Terriers, and the Red Cross, were competing for money that organisers had to come up with novel ideas for fund-raising.

A Grand Carnival in aid of YMCA funds was held at Norwood Park in 1917, featuring comic sports, bowls, dancing and a tug of war between lady munitions workers while the East Yorkshire Regimental Band from Victoria Barracks played popular tunes. Also that year a Red Cross Sale in the Corn Exchange saw a soldier offering his badge for sale. It was sold over and over again, and raised £13.

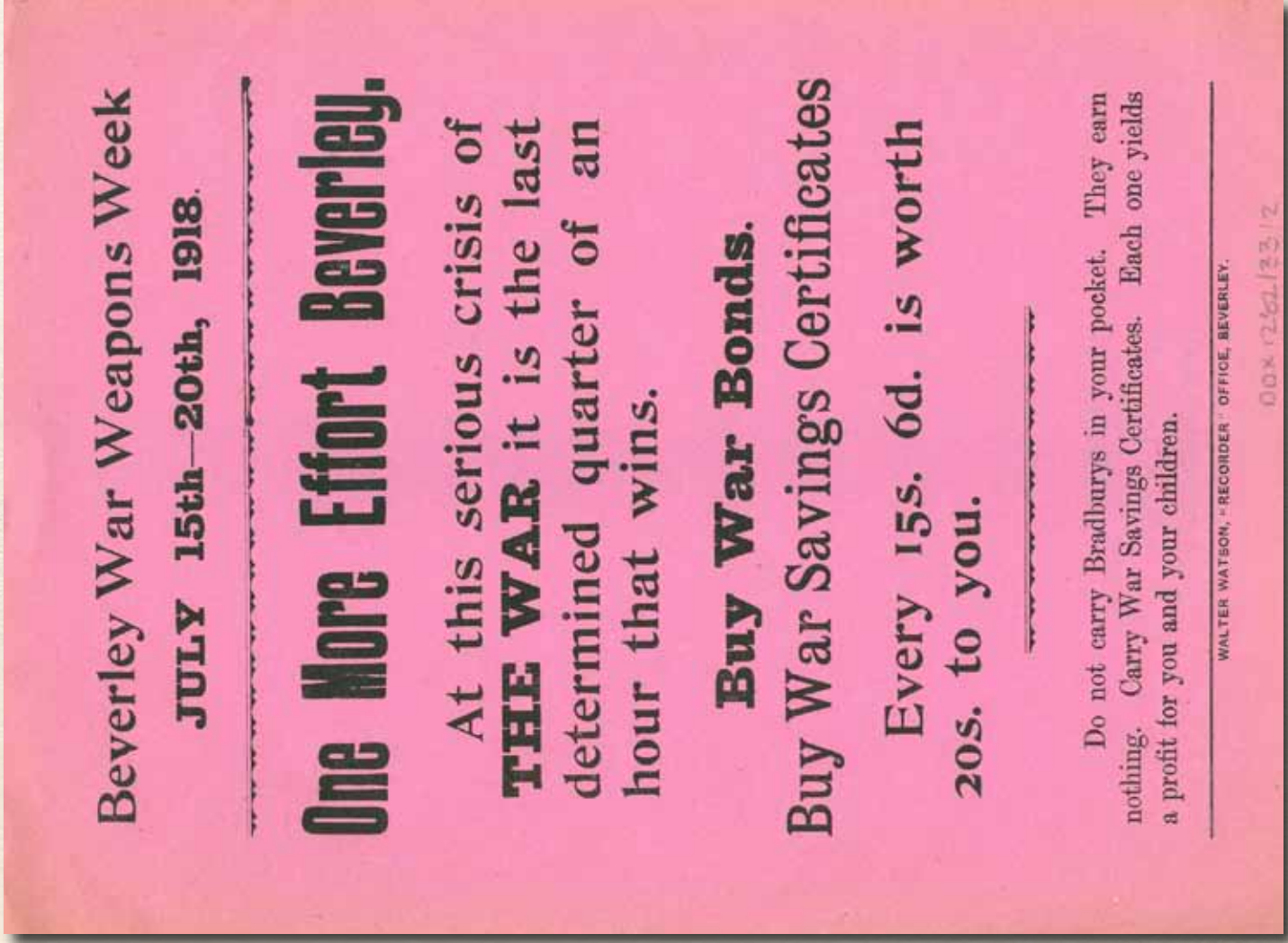
It was eventually given back to the soldier. A small basket of eggs sold in the same way raised £62.

The women behind the “*Thousand Shilling Fund*” sent 230 parcels in two months to the Keldgate and District Soldiers Fund. They heard that the lads from Keldgate were glad to receive them, particularly as one had been diagnosed with measles and they all had to be isolated for 21 days.

War Weapons Week aimed for £35,000 and actually raised £48,452. Tanks were introduced in 1916; when they were first used 2,000 German prisoners were taken in 2 hours. A ‘Tank Bank’ was managed by local bank managers to raise money for tanks known as ‘wibble-wobbles’. The Queen Mother sent a cheque via pigeon post to the Tank Bank in London.



[ERALS DDX1282/33/2]



[ERALS DDX1282/33/2]

The end of the war

The announcement of the Armistice on 11th November 1918 was greeted with great excitement by the people of Beverley, although the joy was somewhat restrained because many families had suffered bereavement. A number of celebrations occurred at the time, with subsequent official celebrations the following summer. Soldiers returning from the war were given priority in the allocation of smallholdings.

The Armistice

Mayor Harry Wray received news of the Armistice at 11 o'clock on 11/11/18. Flags were quickly floating from all the church towers and public buildings. Displays of bunting were hung from businesses and private houses. An effigy of Kaiser Bill was placed on Mr. Leighton's fruit cart and drawn through Saturday Market, and probably burned on the Westwood. Hill 60 on the Westwood, was named after Hill 60 which was 3 miles SE of Ypres. Bells pealed from the church towers; the shipyard closed down until Thursday; munitions works closed all day; and schools that were not already closed by the 'flu epidemic got a half day holiday.

“Now is the time to smile!”

The streets were thronged with people all afternoon and evening. There were intermittent displays of fireworks despite them being viewed as wasteful by some. The joy was somewhat restrained because few families in the town had escaped bereavement. A Service of Thanksgiving for the “Cessation of Hostilities” was held at the Minster.

Rationing was relaxed in the run-up to Christmas. 12 days Christmas leave was granted to all men serving at home. On December 14th there was a relaxation of lighting restrictions and early closing of shops.

However, money was still in short supply and people were still asked to buy War Bonds and Certificates. The Mayor appealed for money for a permanent memorial to ”Our Brave Heroes who have laid down their lives”.

Peace Celebrations

July 6th was called a ‘Day of Thanksgiving’ with a huge procession marching from North Bar Within to the Minster for a Service, where the National Anthem and the Marseillaise were sung. Afterwards the Mayor and Corporation raised a glass of wine to toast the King in the Guildhall. They proposed that for the celebrations all houses should be decorated, each child should have a flag and everyone should wear the National Colours. Owners of business should give their employees a holiday.

Memorials

Following the war, memorials to fallen soldiers were established, including those in the Minster, and the Hengate Memorial Garden. There are also a number of Rolls of Honour around the town.



The Hengate memorial. [From Colin Bradshaw]



Captain (later Major) Clive Wilson, who bequeathed the land for the Hengate memorial garden to the town. [With thanks to Hedon Museum & the Estate of Mr. W. Palmer]

In 1921 the Hengate Memorial Garden was created on land bequeathed by Major Clive H.A. Wilson, D.S.O. on the site where St Mary's House had once stood. The cenotaph has four figures, each holding a model representing a different service: army, air, navy and medical corps.



The Henin Cross in the Minster. [From Colin Bradshaw]

In the South transept of the Minster there is a large cenotaph with the names of those killed, as well as screens with 7,500 names of East Riding men killed serving with other regiments and corps.

The north-east chapel has the Henin Cross made from wood found on the Arras Battlefield of 1917. It was erected to officers and men of the 64th Infantry Brigade who fell on 9/4/17 capturing the Hindenburg line.



In addition to the memorials there are numerous Rolls of Honour located around the town, listing the men lost from particular areas or organisations.

First World War Roll of Honour in the Beverley Memorial Hall. This example lists those from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Manchester Unity Friendly Society. [From Colin Bradshaw]



Programme of Peace Celebrations held at Norwood Park on July 19th 1919. [From Mike Hutchinson]

On Saturday 19th July started with a Procession of Tradesmen's Rullies in the Market Place. In the afternoon there were sports and a Gymkhana for the public and soldiers at Norwood Park, followed by dancing and a bonfire at the Aerodrome. There were street parties all over the town.

On Monday 21st July it was the Children's Festival. Children marched from their schools carrying banners and flags to the Market Place and then up to the Hum for sports followed by a tea. At 5.30 there were marching and dancing displays plus Bands and Pierrots and then Inter-Schools competitions on the Race Course. It was planned to release huge gas balloons.

On Wednesday 23rd July there was a Peace Ball at The Gymnasium Hall. It paid for itself, and made a £3 profit, and was “one of the most enjoyable ever held in the town”.

Soldiers and the Peace

After the end of the War the public feeling was that returning ex-servicemen should receive priority in the allocation of smallholdings, known in the East Riding as Cottage Holdings. These former soldiers were known as ‘preferred tenants’ who could ultimately apply to their

local council for a loan to purchase their house with its adjoining land. Several of these smallholdings can be seen on the A1174 as it passes through Woodmansey and Dunswell.



One of the 'cottage holdings' near Dunswell. [From Denis Price]