

BOTTESFORD AND THE GREAT WAR



A look at how the First World War affected Bottesford, taken from the pages of the Grantham Journal 1914-16.

Selected and edited by Year 9 Belvoir High School pupils as part of the Bottesford Parish First World War Centenary Project.



Supported by

The National Lottery®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



One hundred years ago Britain was involved in a huge conflict, the First World War. Bottesford played its part. This booklet looks at the many ways in which the Parish of Bottesford was affected: through heartbreak to the lighter side of things.

Many weird things went on during the war, for example odd requests for the donation of 1000 eggs each week to help the troops. Strange facts. Did you know that pilots were allowed to fly their planes on their days off? Or that at the worst times in the war you could hear the gunfire from France in Britain?

DID YOU KNOW IN 1914 THEY HAD RECRUITMENT POSTERS IN THE NEWSPAPER?



In the early stages of the war there were recruitment posters in the newspaper to attract people into joining the army. The way they persuaded them was by saying things like: Is your name on the roll of honour? This was very persuasive as it makes it sound like it should be on there and you have no choice. It also makes you feel that if you are on there you are more important than anyone whose name isn't!

This advert appeared in the Grantham Journal in 1914.

Right at the bottom in big letters they put 'God save the King'. This means they are showing respect for their country and that it is all to do with being loyal and

giving up your life for the people and the whole of your country.



NEW RECRUITS...

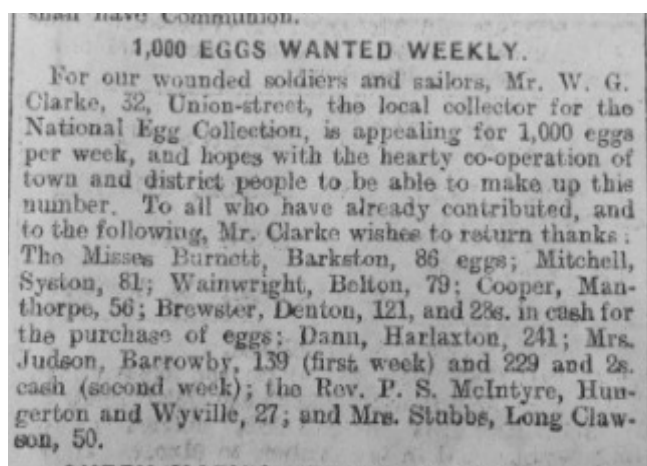


This photo shows some of the recruits that were getting ready for war from Bottesford, Grantham and the local area. The photo shows an assembly of recruits who signed-up to become soldiers from their district (Grantham and District Derby). The people in the photo were all recruited to go to war in the same week, and sent to Lincoln to train. People would

have applauded them as they marched along the street.

The men in the photo answered a roll call, which would have been in the paper only a few weeks before they were recruited. The recruits would eventually be separated and put in different regiments. The officer in charge of the soldiers was called Lieut. Abbott, and he ensured the recruits got to the right regiment safely.

EGGS NEEDED!



In the war, the National Egg Collection appealed for 1000 eggs to be collected to go to wounded sailors and soldiers. An egg collector would go around the local villages, such as Bottesford, Barrowby and Long Clawson and collect the eggs, which the locals had gathered during the week.

The article shows the different numbers of eggs each person from each village had collected for wounded soldiers of the war. It also gives

thanks to all the people who collected eggs for the soldiers on each day, from The National Egg Collection. The highest number of eggs collected from the villages was from Harlaxton which collected around 241 eggs for wounded soldiers of the war.

A GLIMPSE OF WHAT AWAITED THE NEW RECRUITS...



ANOTHER TRENCH SCENE.

WHAT ABOUT THE WOMEN?

Women played a very important part in the war, as this article suggests. Women were needed for jobs such as farm labourers, because so many men had joined the army.

Also many women began working in munitions factories. Working with TNT gave them toxic jaundice and turned their skin yellow!

JARY 13, 1915.—PAGE 3.

WOMEN AND AGRICULTURE.
To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,—We are anxious to support the proposal recently made by Lady Castlereagh that means shall be found to provide for the employment of women in agriculture. We believe there is a great opening for the resumption of this old practice, that certain of the work is of a character which is entirely suitable for women, and that immense advantages may be conferred both upon our national industry, and upon the women themselves, if a workable scheme can be developed. In order that a start may be made, we have decided to do all we can to bring agriculturists and women seeking employment together, and any communications addressed to Mr. Philip G. Cambray, 25, Victoria-street, S.W., either by agriculturists requiring the services of women or by women who are anxious to be sent to farms will be dealt with as speedily as possible. The matter is really very urgent, especially in the dairy districts, where the need is both great and pressing.

Yours faithfully,

MIDDLETON,	R. L. ANGUS,
H. CHAPLIN,	JAMES PETER,
AILWYN FELLOWES,	SAMUEL KIDNER,
HOWARD FRANK,	WILLIAM DENNISS,
CHARLES BATHURST,	R. WILLIAMS,
BEVILLE STANIER,	WALTER H. LONG.

FARMERS AND WHEAT GROWING.

In the course of an interesting letter published in the "Morning Post," Mr. Henry Smith, jun., of the

THE KING HONOURS HIM!

When this man, from nearby Melton, met the royal family we are sure that they treated him with honour because he fought for them and his country; he had unfortunately lost his legs which left him unable to walk.



This man was called Private W. Keightly and he gave the Queen Mary Hospital for limbless soldiers in Roehampton amazing praise by calling it a 'great blessing'.

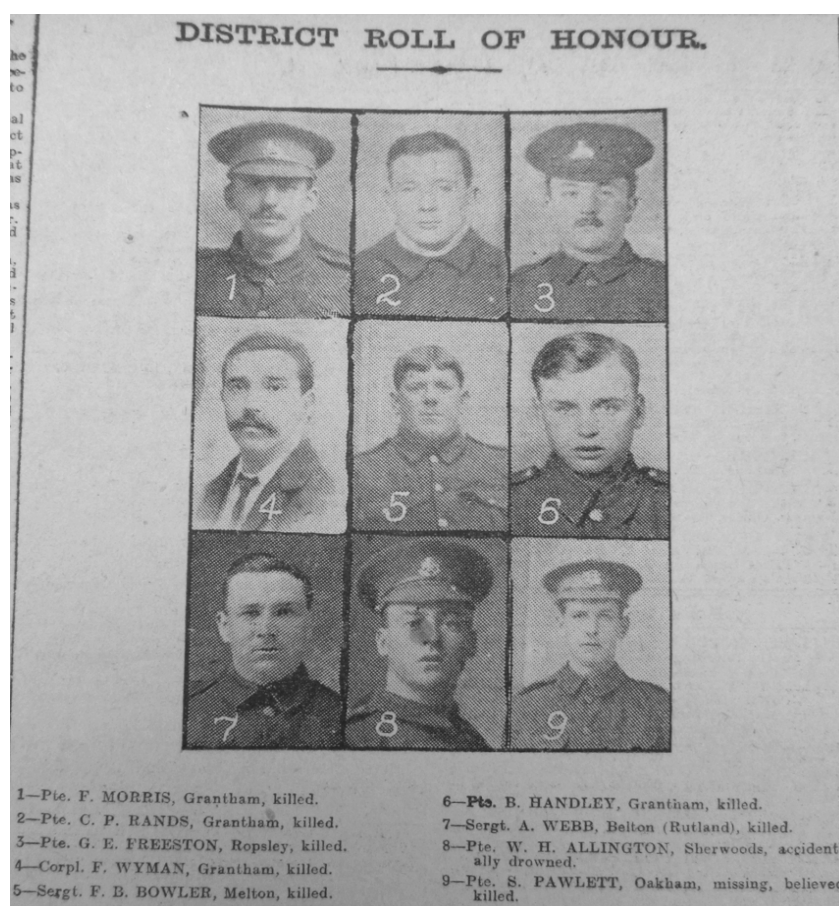
NOT ALL NEWS WAS GOOD, HOWEVER...

Pictures of the fallen soldiers were printed in the Grantham Journal honouring their death, and maybe glorifying the prospects of dying in war. This made young men think that even if they didn't make it out alive their name would be remembered.

As the war went on, more and more of the sort of report seen on the right appeared.



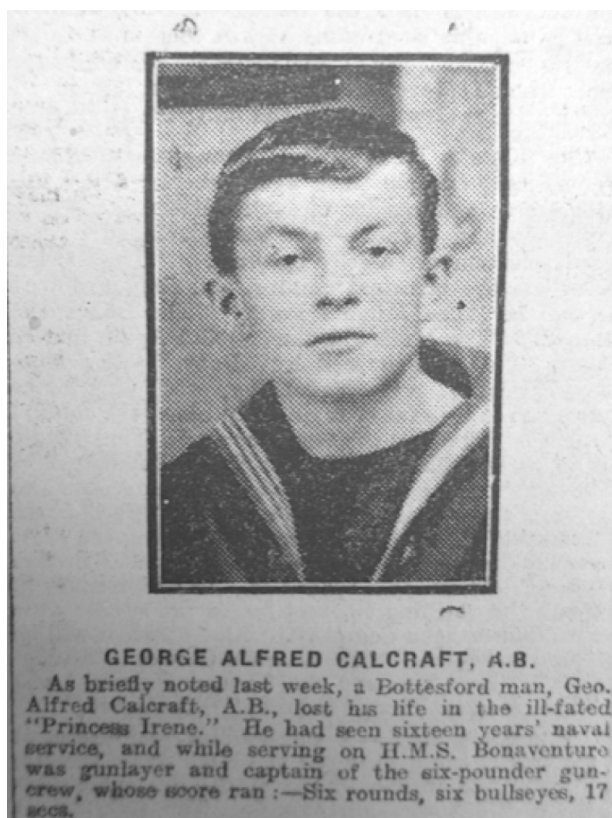
THE BRAVE MEN WHO DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY



A typical report may have gone like this: “All these men from our district have been killed in action. This week, just like any other week, they all died for their country. They were very brave men that were well led, and died fighting with their comrades. They all wanted to go and fight for their friends, family and loved ones, and for freedom.

Pte. F. MORRIS, Grantham, Pte. C. P. Rands, Grantham, Pte. G. E. Freeston, Ropsley, Corpl. F. Wyman, Grantham, Sergt. F. B. Bowler, Melton, Pte. B. Handley, Grantham and Sergt. A. Webb, Belton (Rutland) were all killed in action fighting for their freedom. We will never forget them all.

As well as the above men there were two other soldiers. Pte. W. H. Allington, Sherwoods, who was accidentally drowned as his plane was shot down. Then there was Pte. S. Pawlett, Oakham, missing in action but is believed to be dead. We all wish the best for him. Let them rest in peace as they died for their country as heroes.”



A SAILOR'S STORY

George Alfred Calcraft lost his life in the war in 1915. Many other deaths saddened the small village of Bottesford. Although many joined the armed forces, not all returned.


Before the realisation of the sheer scale of the war hit home, the Grantham Journal published a detailed report for each soldier killed. This changed dramatically as the war progressed; the newspaper gave far less detail for each person as the death count rose.

BUT FOR MANY BACK HOME, LIFE GOES ON...

This article is advertising leather and soles for your shoes. It says that this leather is for all classes, rich or poor. Everyone who has these shoes will stay dry during the winter months. They came up with a slogan 'Cold feet means low spirits, and Dri-ped means cheerful vitality.' The advert claims that everyone at war wears them and it stops them getting trench foot, which was a very common problem amongst the soldiers.

They were using the war to boost sales because everyone needs a good sole on their boots, whether at war or back home in Bottesford.

Y. MAY 1, 1915.—PAGE 6.



Dri-ped is Tommy's Sole Comfort

Well, nearly. Count his pipe as the other. Thousands of Tommies' feet are kept dry and warm by Dri-ped Sole Leather. Dri-ped helps Tommy to fight well—for wet, cold feet mean low spirits, and Dri-ped means cheerful vitality.

Dri-ped's double wear and absolute wet-resistance makes this wonderful sole leather as needful to you as to Tommy.

Ask your Repairer for Dri-ped. The little Dri-ped Diamond in purple on each sole is a voucher for good health, double economy and comfort.

And Dri-ped soles are obtainable on new footwear of all classes. But see this mark in purple on each sole; without it the leather's a substitute.

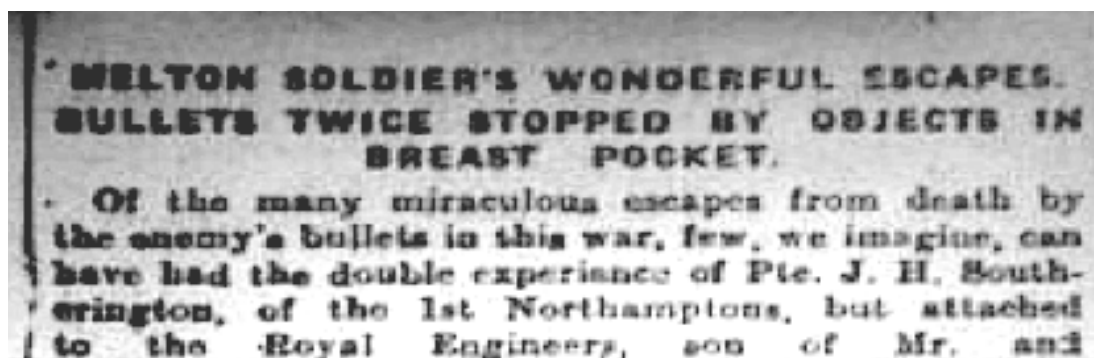
DRI-PED
 THE SUPER-LEATHER FOR SOLES.

Write now on a postcard for interesting booklet "How to Double Boot Life"—we'll send also a list of Repairers and Dealers stocking "Dri-ped" in your district.

WILLIAM WALKER & SONS, LTD.,
 Coats Builders, Cannon Street, Manchester.

DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE. SLEAFORD PETTY SESSIONS.

DID YOU KNOW SOME OF THOSE LEGENDS FROM THE WAR WERE TRUE...?

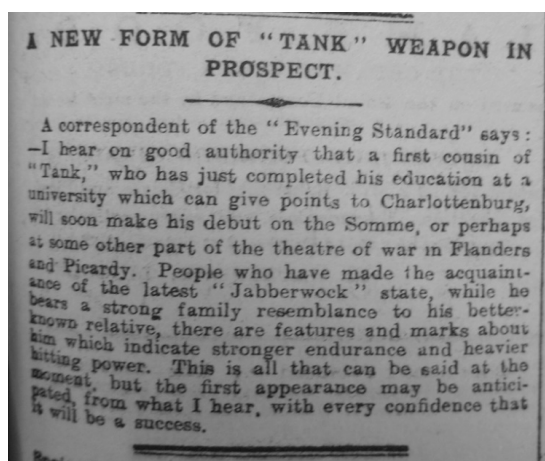


... AND SOME WERE NOT WHAT THEY SEEM.

Many men who did not volunteer were given white feathers as a sign of cowardice. This was actually frowned on by the authorities, one magistrate calling the people who did this 'silly women'!



A GLIMPSE OF THINGS TO COME...



We hope you enjoyed reading our booklet, found it interesting and maybe learned something new about the war! *BHS Year 9 History Team*

Thanks to Mr Tyler at Belvoir High School for helping out, the Bottesford Community Heritage Group for suggesting the project, and Angela Shields at Grantham Library for facilitating access to their Grantham Journal Archive.

Produced as part of the 'Bottesford Parish 1st World War Centenary Project: People, community and memory', supported by an award from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

February 2015