

## PROGRESS OF THE WAR

Our task in the West since the “Big Push”

When our offensive commenced on the Somme these unreasoning persons (referred to earlier in the piece) seemed to expect that the resistance of the Germans would melt away before our advancing armies..(1. 15/7/16)

During the War, “Dear Old Blighty” was a common sentimental reference, suggesting a longing for home by soldiers in the trenches. The term, which originated in the British Raj in India, was particularly used by World War 1 poets such as Wilfred Owen

6.

and Siegfried Sassoon. During the war, a Blighty wound – a wound serious enough to require recuperation away from the trenches but not serious enough to kill or maim – was hoped for by many, and sometimes self-inflicted. (8.)

The Kent Cricket Club War Memorial, was dedicated on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1919 as a memorial to the great Kent and England bowler Colin Blythe, arguably the most famous cricketer killed in WWI. Blythe was killed at Ypres on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1917 aged 38. (7. p31)

Broad Oak Road

Site of the crash of a Gotha (German bomber) in the morning of 7<sup>th</sup> December 1917, in Lilley's Field...just to the south of Folly Farm. The crew survived, set fire to their aircraft and surrendered to the Rev.PP Somerville, Rector of St Stephen's Church, who was a Special Constable. (7. p25)

Food shortages were not a major problem in Britain initially. A bigger problem was rising prices because the government restricted the amount of food and other goods which could be imported.. Following a poor harvest in 1916 (5. p140), the situation deteriorated in 1917 when the Germans adopted a tactic of unrestricted submarine warfare. Essential supplies ran out and in April 1917 Britain was six weeks away from running out of wheat. In order to release men and increase the work force and home farming acreage, the Women's Land Army was formed in February 1917. (8.). 10% of the WLA were to be employed in Kent. Another way of releasing men was the formation in 1917 of the Royal Defence Corps of soldiers too old for the front. This anticipated The Home Guard of 1940. (9.)



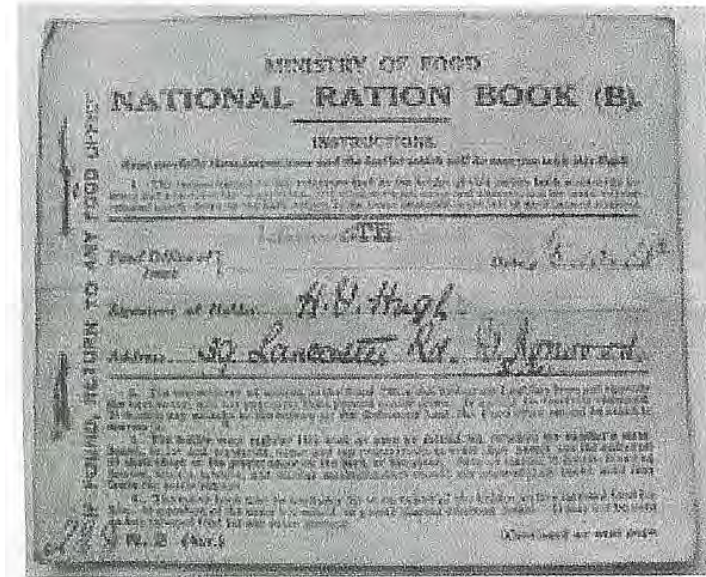
18 Women's  
Land  
Army

In January 1918 the government introduced food rationing. (9.)

### MARGARINE AND MEAT

Have you received your ration card?

By February 13<sup>th</sup> you should receive food cards for every member of the family. (1. 2/2/18)



19 Ration book

### Ad TWO WAYS OF "HELPING TO WIN"

First – Buy National War Bonds

Second --Drink coffee for breakfast... will enable the Food Controller to more easily cope with the present shortage of tea

### INTERNATIONAL STORES (1. 2/2/18)

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 1918 the Representation of the People Act gave women the vote provided they were over 30 and were (or were married to) a local government elector. It also removed most property qualifications, giving all adult (over 21) male resident householders the vote. (8.)

### CANTERBURY WOMEN CITIZEN'S ASSOCIATION

There are now 4913 women in Canterbury who are Local Government Electors

Canterbury's very own Red Baron (14. 7/2011)

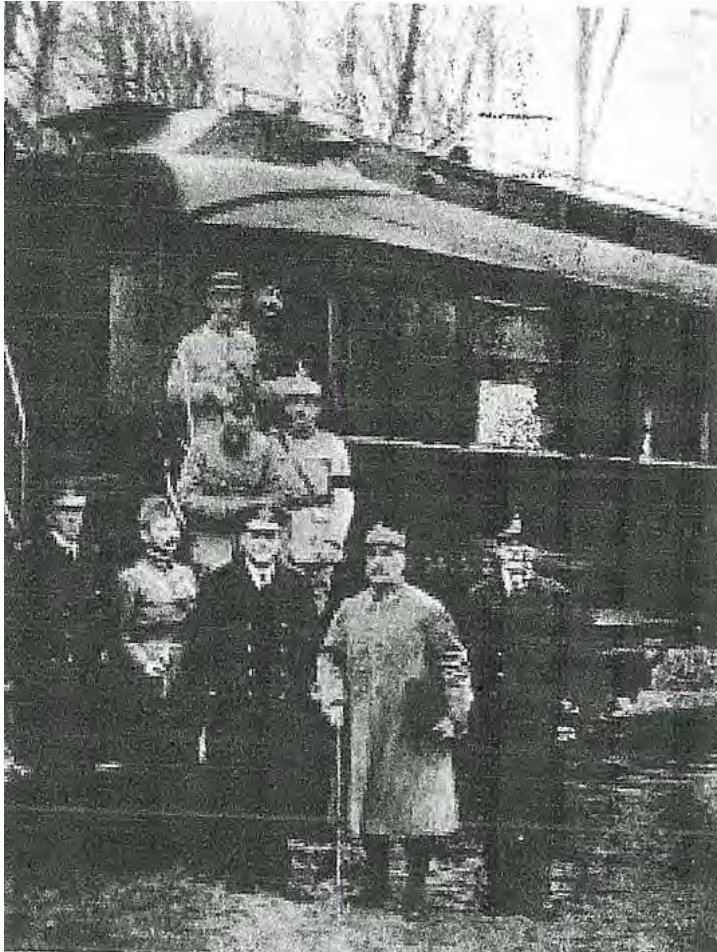
Major Edward "Mick" Mannock, a pilot brought up in Canterbury, may have been the highest-scoring British Empire Ace of all time, with a tally of 61 confirmed kills. He was killed in action on 26th July 1918 and posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross medal. (Wikipedia, which does not mention his upbringing in Canterbury) There is a memorial to him on the South wall of Canterbury cathedral Nave.



20 Mick  
Mannock

## END OF THE WAR

The War finally ended on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 when Germany signed an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railroad car outside Compiègne in France.



21 Field Marshall Foch's carriage at Compiègne

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### END OF THE WAR GERMAN SURRENDER RECEPTION OF THE NEWS AT CANTERBURY

Canterbury, which we are so proud in acclaiming as the Mother City of the Anglo-Saxon race, celebrated the occasion worthily with true joy of heart . (1. 16/11/18)

### GREAT THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT THE CATHEDRAL (1. 16/11/18)

### THE SCENES AT NIGHT

In the evening... Canterbury was a veritable "City of Light"... a delightful scene from Fairyland after the Stygian darkness of the past four years... though Canterbury has been singularly fortunate in escaping the attractions of the Zepps and Gothas. (1. 16/11/18)

#### AFTER FOUR YEAR (Editorial)

It was Cricket Week at Canterbury four years ago when the outbreak happened...Thenceforward the grim realities of war have held our Country in thralldom... It was in March 1917, that the air-fiends succeeded in dropping bombs with half a mile of the City. She has been spared by a merciful Providence the terrible experience of the Thanet coast towns....But the inhabitants have had their share of mental torture and not a few of their sons are numbered among the valiant dead who gave their lives for the great righteous cause to which England set her hand...now the hordes of the Kaiser Arch-Fiend have been beaten to their knees. The God of Battles has given victory, the Right has triumphed over misdirected might. (1. 16/11/18)

During the Great War eight battalions of the (Canterbury based) Buffs regiment went on active service and another seven served at home. No less than 33,000 men passed through the ranks of the regiment of whom some 6,000 died; forty-eight battle honours were awarded and one VC. (10.)

22 Warriors' chapel  
Canterbury Cathedral



The Buffs and other Canterbury based regiments, before and after the Great War, are commemorated in the Warriors' Chapel at Canterbury Cathedral where there is a ceremony at 11:00am every day at which a page in the Book of Remembrance is turned.

The First World War marked the end of an era in many ways. British hegemony as the leading economic and military power in the World ended. The United States of America had overtaken the UK as the largest economy by 1903\*.

The war was a great social leveller; class barriers were reduced, the bargaining hand held by trade unions was considerably strengthened and it "revolutionised the ..position of women. It found them serfs and left them free". (4. p157). The War accelerated technological developments, not only in armaments, but in the role motor transport.. All of the major combatants began the conflict with cavalry forces as well using horses for logistical purposes. By the end of the War, horses had largely been replaced by motor vehicles.

* GDP	1903	1918	1919	
UK £bn	1.88	5.1	5.5	Source UKpublicspending.co.uk
X £/\$ 4.75	8.93	24.2	26.1	Source USgovernmentspending.com
USA \$bn	25.9	59.7	75.8	

## WORLD WAR 1 REFERENCES

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6. Women in the First World War Neil Storey & Molly Housego (Shire Publications 2010)
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8. Wikipedia
9. BBC History Trails Wars & Conflict
10. Naval & Military Press Historical records of the Buffs
11. History Learning Site World War One
12. The National Archives Civilian & War 1914-1918
13. Wisden Reviews Colin Blythe: Lament for a Legend
14. Canterbury City Council online Commemorating Canterbury's very own Red Baron
15. schoolshistory.com The Home Front in WW1

## SOURCES FOR IMAGES USED

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- 2 **Taxis at Westgate** Wartime Canterbury p2 (Audrey Bateman)
- 3 **Anti-suffragette poster** Wartime Canterbury p9 (Audrey Bateman)
- 4 **Pictures of local heroes** **Colin Blythe** *Wartime Canterbury* p3
- 5 **St Lawrence Cricket Ground** *Britain in Old Photos* p80 & 81 Derek Butler
- 6 **Soldiers at St Lawrence Cricket Ground** Wartime Canterbury p4 (A B)
- 7 **New recruits marching past drill hall Canterbury barracks** Wartime C. p10
- 8 **Lord Kitchener's appeal ad** *Wartime Canterbury* p5 (A.Bateman)
- 9 **Women of Britain say GO! Poster** *Women in WW1* p4
- 10 **The military in Broad Street** Wartime Canterbury p43 (Audrey Bateman)
- 11 **Remember Belgium Poster** Wartime Propaganda website
- 12 **The Dane John V.A.D. Hospital** East Kent Gazetteer p28
- 13 **Belgian Soldiers at Abbots Barton** Wartime Canterbury p12 (A. Bateman)
- 14 **V.A.D. Poster** *Women in WW1* p14
- 15 **Kentish Gazette Tobacco scheme ad** *Wartime Canterbury* p45 (A.Bateman)
- 16 **Christmas Truce at the Front** 1914-1918net/truce
- 17 **Trench warfare** *Photos of the Somme* Google
- 18 **Women's Land Army** *Women in WW1* p46
- 19 **Ration Book** WW1 Ration Book Google
- 20 **Pictures of local heroes** **Mick Mannock** *Wartime Canterbury* p63
- 21 **Field Marshall Foch's carriage at Compiègne** Wikipedia
- 22 **Warriors' Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral** CHAS web site