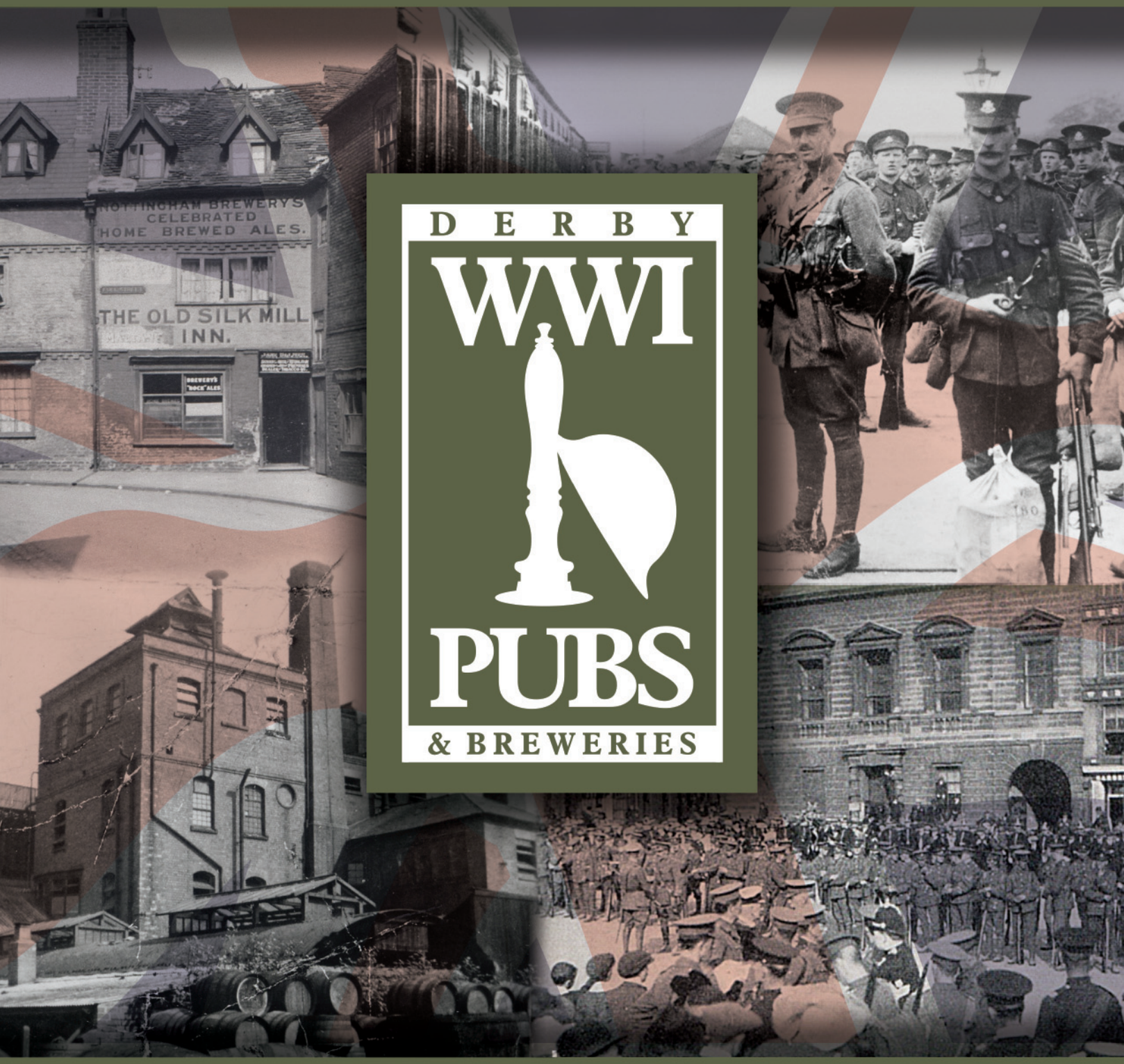
FREE

DERBY DRINKER

— ARMISTICE CENTENARY EDITION - NOVEMBER 2018 —



DERBY WWI PUBS & BREWERIES

LOTTERY FUNDED

DERBY'S PUBS AND BREWERIES IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

As Chair of Derby CAMRA I would like to extend my - and the Elected Committee's - congratulations to Jane Elliott and her team on a superb publication that is so engaging with historical facts. It was a true pleasure to read an advance copy and learn so much about Derby 100 years ago. As a Branch we are indebted to you for this fine Armistice Centenary Edition of Derby Drinker.

Yours In CAMRA

Greg Maskalick
Chairman Derby CAMRA

Welcome to this Derby Drinker supplement. We hope you find the stories of pubs, brewing and beer drinking in Derby during the First World War as interesting as we have. Alcohol use and fear of abuse during the war was a serious issue affecting working and upper class, men and women. Locally Derby had three breweries and many home brew pubs, several war related industries whose workers relied on the local pubs to quench their thirst and many pub and brewery workers who went off to fight for the cause. This short booklet highlights some of their stories.

A group of Derby CAMRA members were inspired to take on the project after a presentation about the Heritage Lottery Fund First World War: Then and Now programme. While considering how to present the research, it became obvious that Derby CAMRA already had the perfect vehicle for presenting the stories. We are very grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund and National Lottery players for funding this project and to Derby CAMRA for their support in delivering the booklet to the pubs.

We are a small group of volunteers, some are experienced or interested in history, some in researching, some in writing, some have technology skills, and everyone has made a useful contribution. None of us has done anything quite like this before. If we have made any errors, then we apologise, and would be pleased to receive constructive corrections.

We have received wonderful support from so many people, for which we are extremely grateful. We particularly want to thank the Seven Stars for hosting our monthly meetings, the Brunswick for allowing us to put on our public talks, Derby Local Studies Library for their support and use of their facilities and Nick Newcombe for his sterling work in putting this supplement together.

Please do contact us if you have more stories to share, or if you would like to make a comment.

Cheers,

Jane Elliott
Chair, Derby World War One Pubs Project

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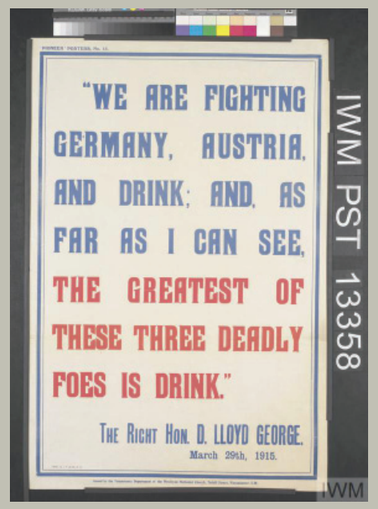


Lloyd George's Beer

We shall win the war, we shall win the war,
As I said before, we shall win the war.
The Kaiser's in a dreadful fury,
Now he knows we're making it at every brewery.
Have you read of it, seen what's said of it,
In the Mirror and the Mail.
It's a substitute, and a pubstitute,
And it's known as Government Ale.
Lloyd George's Beer, Lloyd George's Beer.
At the brewery, there's nothing doing,
All the water works are brewing,
Lloyd George's Beer, it isn't dear.
Oh they say it's a terrible war, oh law,
And there never was a war like this before,
But the worst thing that ever happened in this war
Is Lloyd George's Beer.
Buy a lot of it, all they've got of it.
Dip your bread in it, shove your head in it
From January to October,
And I'll bet a penny that you'll still be sober.
Get your cloth in it, make some broth in it,
With a pair of mutton chops.
Drown your dogs in it, pop your clogs in it,
And you'll see some wonderful sights (in that lovely stuff).
Lloyd George's Beer, Lloyd George's Beer.
At the brewery, there's nothing doing,
All the water works are brewing,
Lloyd George's Beer, it isn't dear.
With Haig and Joffre when affairs look black,
And you can't get at Jerry with his gas attack.
Just get your squirters out and we'll squirt the buggers back,
With Lloyd George's Beer

(A version of this song can be found on Derbyshire's own Coope, Boyes and Simpson's CD What We Sing Is What We Are.)

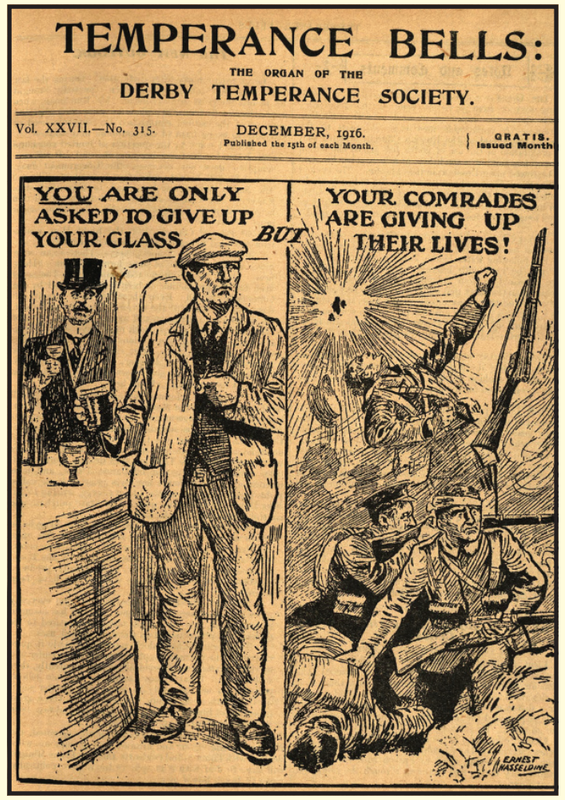
DEDICATION

THIS SPECIAL EDITION of Derby Drinker is respectfully dedicated to the memory of the approximately 18 million military personnel and civilians on both sides of the conflict who died as a result of the First World War, the 23 million who were wounded, and the countless numbers who suffered in other ways.

WILL YOU FOLLOW THE KING'S EXAMPLE?

This was a question put to the citizens of Derby in April 1915 by the local Temperance Society. Here we briefly look at the background to this question and the activities of the local Temperance movement.

'Temperance' was a social movement against the consumption of alcoholic drinks. The movement initially focussed on moderation in the early 19th Century but a stricter form ('teetotalism') emerged in the UK in the 1830s promoting complete abstinence from alcohol. The movement gained credibility due to rising social problems in towns and cities attributed to alcohol consumption.



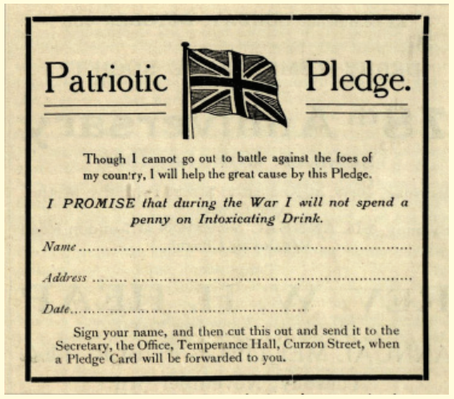
Temperance supporter and artist Ernest Hasseldine's promotion for the wartime pledge (courtesy Derby Local Studies Library)

On 3rd June 1852 Mr Lawrence Heyworth esq. MP laid the foundation stone of The Temperance Hall, the movement's new social centre on Curzon Street, Derby. Concerts, lectures, auction sales and meetings were held there. The building is now used by Derby City Church.

In 1914 Derby still had a very active Temperance Society with influential supporters including several councillors, aldermen, JPs, ministers of religion and Mr W J Piper, the editor of the Derby Daily Telegraph. It used the war as an opportunity to encourage people to sign the pledge and promote the licensing and brewing restrictions passed in August 1914 by the government as part of DORA. Equally quickly, Derby Licensed Victuallers Association complained of "the aggravating intolerance of the Temperance Party."

In August 1914, Derby Temperance Society presented soldiers of the Sherwood Foresters with a practical gift of writing materials for use wherever they were stationed. The folder also contained a photograph of the Temperance Hall and a copy of the temperance pledge in the hope that some of them would sign it before going off to war.

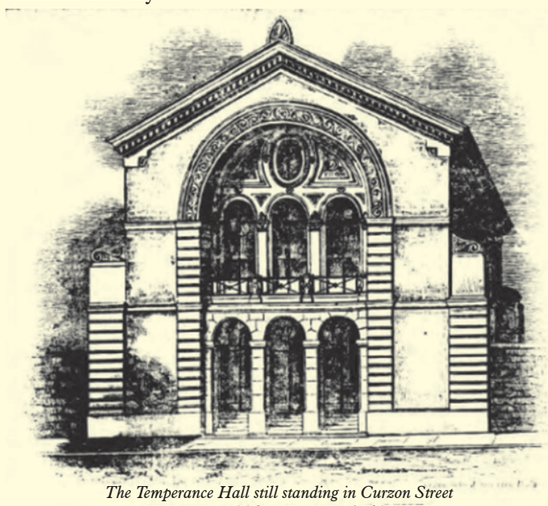
In 1915 the 'Sons of Temperance' opened their hall on Duncan Road, off Walbrook Road in Normanton. There was plenty of welfare activity in the neighbourhood of Normanton Barracks the home of the Sherwood Foresters and the new hall must have been a welcome addition.



Derby Temperance Society Pledge (courtesy Derby Local Studies Library)

The Temperance Society also lobbied local people trying to persuade them to abstain for the period of the war. This was given a boost on April 1915 when the king publicly declared that "no wines, spirits, or beer will be consumed in His Majesty's houses". Other public figures - such as Lord Kitchener, and members of the cabinet - agreed to do the same. Derby Temperance Society asked ***"Will you follow the King's Example?"*** and printed two versions of its pledge, the usual total abstinence pledge, and the "Patriotic Pledge" binding only for the duration of the war.

The Society was very disappointed when the then Mayor of Derby, Councillor S. Johnson, only went as far as refusing alcohol while on public duty. In general, the Society's activities did not have the significant long-term impact that it hoped for and the town retains an active pub and brewing scene to this day.



The Temperance Hall still standing in Curzon Street (courtesy British Newspaper Archive)

BOOZE *at the* FRONT *and at* HOME *in* BLIGHTY

Contrary to what the temperance movement in Derby would have preferred, all soldiers on active service at the front received a 2.5 fluid ounces (70ml) ration of 80° proof (45.5% abv) rum daily, dropping to twice a week for those behind the front line or resting. Teetotallers were under no obligation to take the ration but an official memorandum states "This option is only exercised in a few instances".

A double ration was issued to those brave lads going over the top, including the Sherwood Foresters battalions. Those lucky enough to survive received yet another ration on their return. "Dead Men's Rations", the rations of those men who failed to return meant there was more for those that did. Drunkenness in the trenches was punishable by death, but in practice many officers below the rank of General turned a blind eye to it because they were likely to be as much under the influence as the ranks. Some officers were reputed to be drinking as much as two bottles of whisky a day. They found themselves under greater pressure as their survival rate was even lower than an ordinary soldier's. Spirits other than the rum ration were prohibited for the ranks but officers were permitted to indulge. Old Orkney whisky was a favourite brand for many and became known by Tommies in the trenches as "Officers Only".

THE BRITISH ARMY ISSUED ITS RUM RATION IN CERAMIC JARS. THESE USUALLY HELD EITHER TWO GALLON OR ONE GALLONS.
© IWM (FEQ 602)

Many SRD jars were made locally at Woodward Pottery in Swadlincote. SRD, according to the Imperial War Museum stands for "Supply Reserve Depot", but soldiers often ironically called it "Seldom Reaches Destination". (credit IWM)

During rest and recovery periods behind the lines in France the Sherwood Foresters battalions enjoyed the estaminets or cafes set up by the locals to cater for them. The weak French lager-type beer was not to their taste and was often substituted by a half pint of 'plonk', an easier pronunciation for Vin Blanc, wine being something the average working-class soldier from Derby was unlikely to have tried before. Those stationed in Belgium were able to enjoy the more fulsome flavour of the monastery brewed beers. Drunkenness became part and parcel of recreation.

In February 1919 the Sherwood Foresters battalions began returning home to Derby to find beer was much weaker and far more expensive than before the war. Priced at 3d (less than 2p) a pint pre-war it now cost 8d (4p) and the beer strength had dropped from around 5.2% abv to 2.6% abv on average. However, after the war in July 1919 the government had allowed the strength to increase to 4.46% abv. The restrictions on output from breweries was relaxed and the no-treating order was also revoked, meaning people could once again buy a round for their friends.

Some servicemen would be disappointed to find their favourite pub closed. Many of these had become


TWO TOMMIES DRINKING RUM OUT OF THE STANDARD-ISSUE JAR AT THE "CHALK PIT" ON THE SOMME IN DECEMBER 1916. THE DAILY RUM RATION WAS MUCH LESS THAN THAT PICTURED; ENLISTED MEN WOULD BE HARD-PRESSED TO ACCESS THE UNIT'S RUM JARS, WHICH WERE STRICTLY CONTROLLED.
© IWM (Q 4619)

Credit: IWM

unviable under war-time restrictions and licenses were surrendered under a government compensation scheme. In Derby there were twelve pubs that were "Brewers of the Beer Retailed", or home-brew pubs. One of these was the Nottingham Castle, Queen Street where returning serviceman, William Martin, son of the licensee would not be disappointed. His father, licensee William Henry Martin, would surely have prepared a very special own brew to welcome back his son who had bravely served in the Army Service Corps in The Balkans.

The Nottingham Castle, Queen St, Derby. Closed in the 1960s. Credit: DLSL

WAR HORSES

We mainly think about the casualties of the First World War as being soldiers, seamen and airmen, but there were many animal casualties – one estimate puts the number of horses killed in the War at a staggering eight million.

At the start of the war the British Army still relied primarily on horses to move heavy equipment. Heavy Shire horses, such as those used to pull brewery delivery drays, were in demand and many were purchased for army duties.


NOTICE.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

IMPRESSMENT ORDER UNDER THE ARMY ACT.

MOST OF OUR HORSES AND VEHICLES HAVE BEEN REQUISITIONED FOR THE USE OF THE DERBYSHIRE REGIMENTS.

We are happy to be in a position to help our country's cause, and do all we can to forward mobilisation.

We hope to be able to execute all orders with as little delay as possible, and ask for the indulgence of our customers.

OFFILERS' BREWERY, LIMITED,

DERBY AND CAVENDISH BRIDGE.

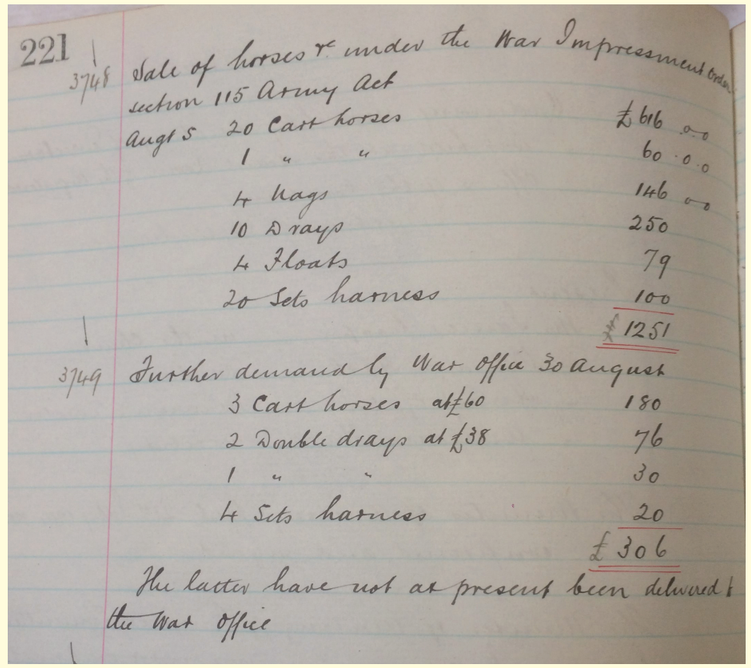
Derby Telephones, 653 and 654. Telegrams: "Offilers, Derby."
Cavendish Bridge ditto, No. 8 Shardlow. " "Offiler's, Shardlow."

The minute book for Derby's Offilers Brewery shows that in August 1914 they sold 20 horses to the army for £616 in total, equivalent to around £44,000 today with a further three horses being sold to the army shortly after together with double drays and harnesses.

Bass Brewery records also show that on 14 January 1915 the following eight horses, with respective ages in brackets, were recorded as being sold to the War Office for £65 each, equivalent to around £4600 today:

Derby (13 years)
Gamecock (11 years)
Hindoo (11 years)*
Jezebel (10 years)
Joker (8 years)
Joskin (8 years)
Knave (8 years)
Knobkerrie (9 years)

**Possibly named after a C19th American racehorse*


221
3748 Sale of horses &c under the War Impressment Order section 115 Army Act
Augt 5 20 Cart horses £616 0 0
1 " " 60 0 0
4 Wags 146 0 0
10 Drays 250
4 Floats 79
20 Sets harness 100
£1251
3749 Further demand by War Office 30 August
3 Cart horses at £60 180
2 Double drays at £38 76
1 " " 30
4 Sets harness 20
£306
The latter have not at present been delivered to the War Office

Detail from Offilers' minute book September 1914

In June 1917 the army needed more horses and Offilers sold them nine in total for £660. There is no mention subsequently of the brewery buying more horses so the likelihood is that they had been able to work out ways of being able to carry out day to day tasks, in particular delivering beer to pubs, replacing horses with steam lorries.

A large percentage of horses bought by the army to serve during the war subsequently died or were put down as unfit to work after the war or to save the cost of repatriation. The army held auctions where surviving horses were sold although there is no evidence that any of these horses returned to work for breweries around Derby.

Bass Shire horses being requisitioned by the army in Guild Street, Burton on Trent, August 1914. (credit National Brewery Centre)

LANDLORD
WOUNDED IN ACTION

A number of local licensees served in the forces during the war. One was Derbyshire Yeomanry Warrant Officer, Second Class, 213 Thomas Piggin of **The Alexandra Hotel** in Derby. He had formerly been a manager of Derby racecourse, which may explain why he is recorded as being in charge of a convoy of 1559 mules in **Gallipoli** when he was badly injured by a shell. Transferred back to England by hospital ship he recovered from his injuries and was reassigned to the 4th Reserve Regiment of the Corps of Dragoons Household Regiment - a horse regiment. Along with the War and Victory medals he also received the 1914-15 Star medal for his active service in Gallipoli. He was discharged in December 1919 and returned home to run the **Bridge Inn** at Shelton Lock. He remained actively involved in the Yeomanry, and served as a councillor for Alvaston.

KEEP THE
BEER BARRELS
ROLLING

The Home Front labour shortage during the war was not initially *manpower* but *horsepower*. On 8 August 1914, four days after the declaration of war, Derby breweries placed ads in the Derby Daily Telegraph apologising for potential delays to deliveries as horses and motor vehicles had been requisitioned for the war effort.

By the end of 1914 Offilers reported 21 employees had "joined the

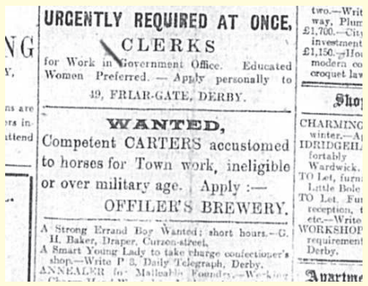

Address, in own handwriting, B 9, Daily Telegraph, Derby.

CHAUFFEUR to drive Rolls-Royce car; must have driven Rolls-Royce before; week on trial; no night work; for war only; country.—Address W. W. Simpson, Winkley, Whalley, near Blackburn.

COOPERS REQUIRED for Repairs; good prices, also bonus of 3s. for each £1 earned up to £2 and 6s. 8d. for £1 on earnings over £2, with extra weekly war bonus of 4s., railway fare paid; only steady, first-class workmen need apply.—H. & G. Simonds, Ltd., The Brewery, Reading.

DRAPERY.—WANTED, Young LADY as APPRENTICE in the Mantle Showroom; wages

colours". 50 more joined up the following year and advertisements for boys to work in the bottling departments and as carters appeared. Offilers, Altons, Cox and Malin (wine and spirit merchants) and even Kimberley Brewery advertised in Derby for experienced wagoners and men willing to retrain to drive motor or steam lorries. That 'retraining' may not have been


URGENTLY REQUIRED AT ONCE,
CLERKS
for Work in Government Office. Educated Women Preferred. — Apply personally to 19, FRIAR-GATE, DERBY.

WANTED,
Competent CARTERS accustomed to horses for Town work, ineligible or over military age. Apply :—
OFFILER'S BREWERY.

A Strong Errand Boy Wanted; short hours.—G. H. Baker, Draper, Curzon-street.
A Smart Young Lady to take charge confectioner's shop.—Write P 3, Daily Telegraph, Derby.

entirely successful. George Taylor, a motor lorry driver for Offilers, was prosecuted for driving at "a fast pace" exceeding the speed limit of 5mph. He claimed he was used to driving a much lighter vehicle and that as his vehicle had two gears set for 3 and 6 miles per hour, he could not have been travelling at the 12mph claimed. He was ordered to pay 20/- (£1) costs.

Men who had worked with horses were in such great demand that even those normally deemed unfit for service may have been recruited to join the transport divisions. Labour shortages continued to increase as the war progressed and advertisements appeared in the Derby Daily Telegraph from breweries outside the area. Hydes of Manchester advertised for an experienced brewery worker to assist in mashing and boiling. Aston Cross of Birmingham and Simonds of Reading required coopers. Simonds were willing to pay a bonus of 3/- (15p) per £1 earned up to £2 and 6/8d (34p) for each £1 earned after that. They also offered an additional 4/- (20p) a week war bonus and railway fare. An offer as generous as this is a clear indication of the shortage of skilled labour and an illustration of the premium rates workmen could command. These situations were able to be advertised in Derby unlike recruitment into engineering and armament industries where employment was restricted to those living less than 10 miles distant from the place of work.

As the war progressed, advertisements began to appear for men over military age, discharged, exempt from (or ineligible for)


WANTED, Girl or Youth as Apprentice to high-class Gent.'s Outfitting.—Apply (in own handwriting) A 9, Daily Telegraph, Derby.
WANTED, Girls, aged 14 to 16, for clean, light work.—Apply Arthur Clemson, Box Manufacturer, Kensington Works, Forman-st., Derby.
WANTED, Motor Driver, discharged soldier or female, for bread delivery; references.—W. H. Williamson and Son, 62, Franchise-street, Derby.
WANTED, strong Youth or Woman for dray work; must have had previous experience and produce satisfactory reference.—Strettons Brewery, Ltd., Derby.
WANTED, immediately, Weavers for webs, tapes, and silk ribbons, Wire-coverers and Wire-blockers.—Apply A. Green, Ltd., Green-lane Mills and Agard street Mills.
WANTED, good Cost and Invoice Clerks (female), must have had first-class experience.—Apply by letter only, stating full particulars, British Cellulose and Chemical Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Spondon.
YOUNG Girl Wanted for cash desk.—Apply Stewarts, Victoria-street, Derby.

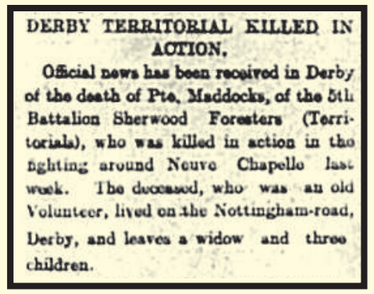
military service. A sign that employers were attempting to recruit workers who were not likely to be called up and further disrupt their business, whilst appearing to support ex-servicemen and perhaps more importantly for public relations purposes not employing those who refused to fight.

Adverts for less physically demanding roles for women such as "lady clerks" at Offilers and for a "capable woman chauffeur" to drive a sales representative at Strettons, with the stipulation that she was able to perform minor running repairs. More physically demanding roles such as a "strong youth, or woman, for dray work" soon followed. The stipulation "previous experience required" suggests women were already doing this type of work by the middle of the war.


Simpson and Son, 13, St. James's-street.
CHEMIST'S HELP WANTED, male or female; an apprentice preferred.—Jadite, Pear Tree-rd.
COLLAR Machinist, Calender Hands, and Ironers Wanted.—Apply Derby Laundry Co., Ltd., Alvaston.
COSTUME Department.—Wanted, experienced Tailoresses for alterations.—Apply Miss Smith, Midland Drapery Co., Derby.
CAPABLE Woman Chauffeur Wanted for business car, to drive a traveller; must do minor running repairs.—Apply Strettons' Derby Brewery, Ltd., Ashbourne-road.
FIFTY Girls Wanted, 14-16; light, clean permanent work; good wages.—Hampshire and Co., Ltd., Riverside Works.
GIRLS Wanted for making children's clothing.—Apply 18, Reginald-street.
GIRLS, 14-16 years, Wanted to learn glove-making; clean, light work; good wages.—Midland Chamois Co., Cobden-street, Derby.
HOSIERY.—Experienced Cutter Wanted for Ladies' and Gent.'s Underwear.—Clay and Co., Coronation-road.
HOSIERY.—Wanted, Flatlock Machine Hand, also one or two Girls just leaving school.—Saml.

PRIVATE MADDOCKS

On Wednesday 17th March 1915, the Derby Daily Telegraph carried the following stark notice reporting the death of Pte Maddocks'.

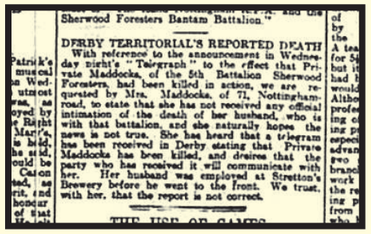

DERBY TERRITORIAL KILLED IN ACTION.

Official news has been received in Derby of the death of Pte. Maddocks, of the 5th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Territorials), who was killed in action in the fighting around Neuve Chapelle last week. The deceased, who was an old Volunteer, lived on the Nottingham-road, Derby, and leaves a widow and three children.

We can identify the couple concerned as Walter and Laura Maddocks. He had been a barrel-hooper with Stretton's Brewery and she a factory worker. They had married a year before the war began and he had been in France for only six weeks. In today's language Laura would no doubt have been distraught.

Fortunately, her hope that the news was not true was fulfilled. We don't have any intervening details, but we know that he returned, as in 1939 Walter and Laura were living together in Keys Street, Derby.

There must have been many occasions when inaccurate information, rumour or lack of news caused distress. The confusion may have arisen as there was another Private Walter Maddocks, who was reported missing in October 1914 but not confirmed dead until May 1916.


Sherwood Foresters Bantam Battalion."

DERBY TERRITORIAL'S REPORTED DEATH

With reference to the announcement in Wednesday night's "Telegraph" to the effect that Private Maddocks, of the 5th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, had been killed in action, we are requested by Mrs. Maddocks, of 71, Nottingham-road, to state that she has not received any official intimation of the death of her husband, who is with that battalion, and she naturally hopes the news is not true. She has heard that a telegram has been received in Derby stating that Private Maddocks has been killed, and desires that the party who has received it will communicate with her. Her husband was employed at Stretton's Brewery before he went to the front. We trust, with her, that the report is not correct.

CAPTAIN
LESLIE HALES FINCH TD, MBE
DERBY BREWER 'MISSING IN ACTION'

Leslie Finch was assistant brewer to his father Walter, Head Brewer at Stretton's Brewery, Derby. He lived comfortably with his parents three siblings and a live-in domestic servant in the leafy suburban Heyworth Street, a short distance from the brewery. Privately educated at Uppingham School Rutland, which has its own Cadet Force, he subsequently joined the Sherwood Foresters Territorials in 1908 as a 2nd Lieutenant aged 18. As such, on the outbreak of the war, he was immediately required to deploy to France with the rank of Captain. Luck would appear to have been on his side, unlike many of his fellow officers who suffered casualty rates far higher than those for other ranks - 17% compared to 12%.

In March 1917 he returned home to marry Alice Maud Snell, the 42 year old widow of Lieutenant Colonel William Snell. His short leave over he then returned to the front. One year later as the German Spring Offensive began, it appeared his luck had run out and the Derby Daily Telegraph reported him Missing in Action. Records show that the Battle of St Quentin began at 4.30am 21 March 1918 when the Sherwood Foresters endured a four-hour bombardment of first gas then high explosive shells. This was followed by a frontal attack by infantry storm troopers who successfully gained 2000 yards of ground. The difficult terrain, mist and fog meant many units became


Stretton's Maltings, Manchester Street, now flats

cut off and disorientated leading to the battalion being totally overwhelmed. (R.C Sherriff's famous play 'Journeys End' depicts an Officer's dugout in the British trenches leading up to this battle.)

No doubt feeling distraught at the latest news from the Western Front and fearing the worst, Leslie's new wife and family must have been overjoyed when to their surprise they received a postcard from him. Having been captured on the first day of the battle, he was a "Prisoner of War in Germany and quite well".

In 1919 he was repatriated to Derby. Leslie continued his army service with the Territorials until 1926 and then as a Major in the Home Guard during the Second World War, for which he received the MBE. He did not return to brewing but became a maltster's salesman until his death in 1960.

Major Leslie Finch's medal group

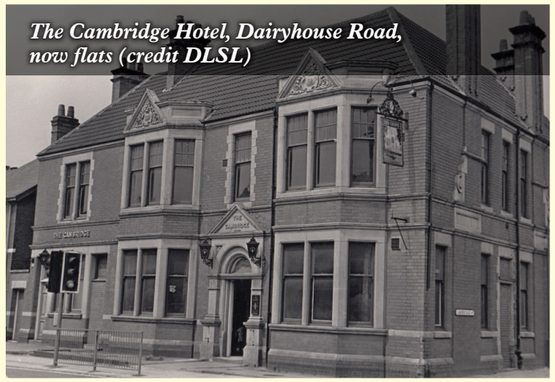
PUB LANDLADIES

Before the war the licenced trade was, like many others, predominantly a male area of employment. In 1913 and 1914 the only new licences given to women were those granted after the death of their husbands. However, at least twenty-six landladies are recorded running pubs in Derby in 1915. Three of those were Mrs Gardner at The Brunswick Railway & Commercial Hotel, better known today as simply The Brunswick. The Furnace Inn, Duke Street was run by Mrs Gregory and The Old Silk Mill, Full Street Derby by Mrs Holmes. As the war progressed many male licensees either volunteered or were conscripted into the forces and females increasingly became licensees.

The Old Silk Mill, demolished in 1920s (credit DLSL)

Before a licence could be obtained a "suitably good character" had to be proved. If married, a woman had to give a good reason why she and not her husband should be granted the licence. In some cases, it may have been because the husband had a criminal record or perhaps

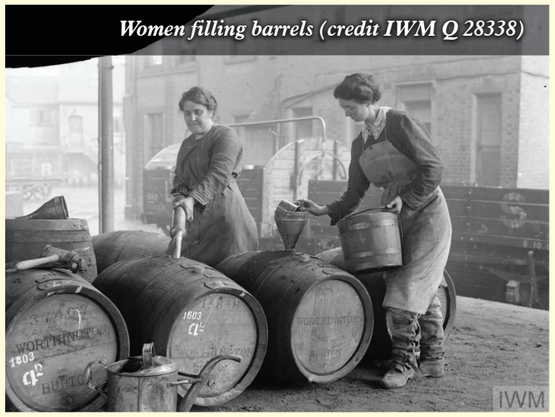
The White Bear, Derwent Row, demolished in 1960s (credit DLSL)


The Cambridge Hotel, Dairyhouse Road, now flats (credit DLSL)

sadly because the husband had been killed serving in the forces.

The periodical Derby Magistrates Sessions licencing team were reported as having concerns regarding the suitability of women managing pubs. The Chairman wished to stress the importance of women granted a licence securing "efficient male help on the premises to give assistance".

Wives had merely been expected to keep the managerial seat warm for their husbands and relinquish the licence on the demobilisation of their menfolk whether or not they had made a successful job of running the pub. This was not an unusual state of affairs. Many women finding freedom from domestic drudgery during the war had the more challenging and exciting opportunities removed once the men returned home.



Women filling barrels (credit IWM Q 28338)

Of the 25 licences granted to women during the war, 18 were returned to their husbands at the end. Sadly, the war appears to have taken its toll on at least two of them. Clara Ratcliffe had run The White Bear, Derwent Row while her husband Emor had served in the forces but the pair appear to have left the trade on his return. Florence Spencer ran The Cambridge Hotel, Dairyhouse Road. When her husband George returned early from the war after serving in the newly formed RAF, he regained the licence. However, he was clearly unwell as at the same time they advertised for a nurse to look after him and within six months they left the trade. Eighteen months later George died at the pitifully young age of 38.

GOT ANY BEER?

The first few days of war in August 1914 had an immediate effect on the breweries, a foretaste of what was to come in the next four and a half years. Although there was plenty of beer in the breweries the pubs began to run short. The primary reason was that the War Office, ill-prepared as it was for war, was short of transport and immediately requisitioned most of the breweries' horse-drawn and motor transport. Horses and drays were commandeered for the war effort leaving the breweries with beer to sell, pubs to sell it in and customers eager to buy, but not enough transport to get it to where it was wanted.

NOTICE.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY.

IMPRESSMENT ORDER UNDER THE ARMY ACT.

MOST OF OUR HORSES AND VEHICLES have been requisitioned for the use of the DERBYSHIRE REGIMENTS.

We are happy to be in the position to help our Country's cause and do all we can to forward mobilisation.

We hope to be able to execute all orders with as little delay as possible, and ask for the indulgence of our customers.

OFFILERS' BREWERY LTD.

DERBY & CAVENDISH BRIDGE.

Derby Telephones 653 and 654. Telegrams "Offilers, Derby."

Cavendish Bridge Telephone No. 8 Shardlow

Derby's brewers were quick to inform their customers of the difficulties they found themselves in. Altons, Offilers and Strettons all took advertisements in the local press apologising to their customers for delays in deliveries or temporary shortage of beer. This would no doubt have been welcomed by publicans who could point out to customers unable to get their pint that it was the government's fault, not theirs that there was no beer. We can only speculate on whether a licensee without beer enquired of a thirsty customer "Don't you know there's a war on?"

Two of these companies complained of the difficulties they had experienced. Henry Offiler noted that "the Government commandeered a good many of [the brewery's] horses and conveyances and [we] had had to replace them as best [we] could". They had at various times, he said, resorted to using furniture vans, greengrocers' carts and even fish barrows to make deliveries.

Strettons were rather more scathing in their remarks on loss of transport, stating that the war had seriously affected deliveries, "The whole of our mechanical transport was commandeered and when we got new transport that was commandeered also".

Although there was some disruption to deliveries, the brewers were compensated financially for their losses. Motor vehicles, which seem to have been a priority, were either bought or hired.

Compensation for horses was rather more complicated. Horses were divided into three categories. Firstly, they could be purchased outright, although there were alleged attempts at profiteering by owners over estimating the worth of their horses. Secondly, subsidised horses, those fit for use in the artillery, where the owner received £4 a year and the horse could be called-up with 24 hours' notice. The third category "remounts" were horses chiefly kept for riding. Owners were given 10/- (50p) a year, but their horses were expected to be bought by the army in due course. The Telegraph comments, perhaps pointedly, "most of the remount officials are prominently connected

NOTICE.

The WAR OFFICE has COMMANDEERED most of our Horses and all our Motor Vehicles.

We are glad to be of service to the State.

We expect to be able to execute all orders entrusted to us.

Should there be some little delay during the next few days we crave the indulgence of our customers, and hope quickly to be in a position to serve them as promptly as heretofore.

ALTON & Co., LIMITED,
Brewers and Wine and Spirit Merchants,
WARDWICK, DERBY.
Telephone 153. Branch Office 1, Loudoun-street, Telegraphic Address, "Alton, Derby."

NOTICE.

The WAR OFFICE has COMMANDEERED most of our Horses and all our Motor Vehicles.

We are glad to be of service to the State.

We expect to be able to execute all orders entrusted to us.

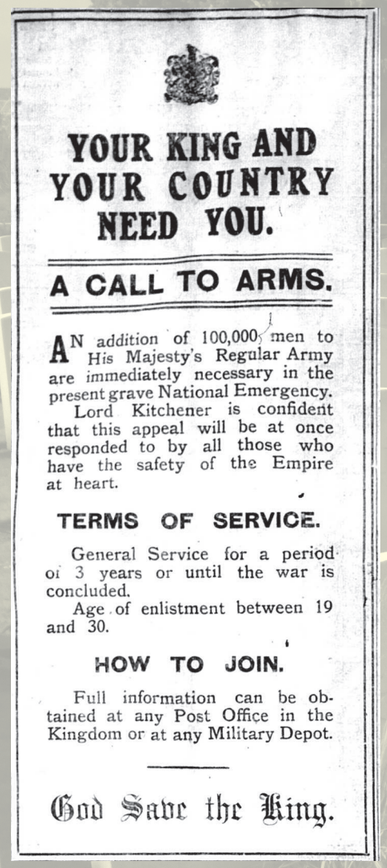
Should there be some little delay during the next few days we crave the indulgence of our customers, and hope quickly to be in a position to serve them as promptly as heretofore.

STRETTONS DERBY BREWERY, Ltd.
Brewers & Wine & Spirit Merchants,
ASHBOURNE ROAD, DERBY.
Telephone Numbers, 587 and 588. Telegrams, Strettons, Derby.

with the Meynell Hunt".

All the local brewers seem to have eventually replaced at least some of their transport fleet with steam lorries, regularly advertising in the local papers for steam wagon drivers. One Offilers vehicle suffered a nasty accident in November 1915. The steering chain snapped, causing the lorry to career out of control down King St, Belper, ending up embedded in a shop front, narrowly missing the shopkeeper's daughter. Fortunately, there was no loss of life, but an expensive and inconvenient loss to brewery and shopkeeper.

Offilers steam lorry after accident in Belper



YOUR KING AND YOUR COUNTRY NEED YOU.

A CALL TO ARMS.

AN addition of 100,000 men to His Majesty's Regular Army are immediately necessary in the present grave National Emergency.

Lord Kitchener is confident that this appeal will be at once responded to by all those who have the safety of the Empire at heart.

TERMS OF SERVICE.

General Service for a period of 3 years or until the war is concluded.

Age of enlistment between 19 and 30.

HOW TO JOIN.

Full information can be obtained at any Post Office in the Kingdom or at any Military Depot.

God Save the King.

VOLUNTEERS AND CONSCRIPTS

The UK has a long tradition of part-time voluntary military service. In 1908 the *Territorial Force* was formed to replace the previous *Volunteer Force* of 1859. Both forces had been intended to strengthen home defences and enable more of the regular army to be sent as expeditionary forces to new conflicts overseas. The *Territorial Force* was intended to improve the integration of the part-timers with the regular troops. Locally this was the *Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment*, the **Sherwood Foresters**.

The *Territorial Force* was mobilised on 4 August 1914 for home defence duties and could not be forced to serve overseas. At that time, the British regular army, unlike the French and German ones, consisted entirely of volunteers, and was comparatively small. **Kitchener** needed many more men, but he wanted to recruit a new army of volunteers, rather than relying on the *Territorials*, of whom he had a low opinion.

However, Kitchener had to accept that some Territorial units could join the **British Expeditionary Force** while his new army was being trained, and many volunteered to do so. In February 2015 the 1/5th (Derby) and 1/6th (Chesterfield) **Territorial Force Battalions** of the Sherwood Foresters landed in France and were soon serving in the trenches on the **Western Front**.

In August 1914, nearly 300,000 men volunteered to join Kitchener's new army; the following month 460,000 more. Numbers settled at 100,000 a month, but towards the end of 1915, there were concerns that this would not be enough. **Lord Derby** introduced a scheme whereby men could attest their willingness to serve as necessary. Not enough did so and conscription was introduced from January 1916.

Towards the end of the war the importance of the brewing industry was recognised by the Government. Depending on their duties, many brewers became exempt from conscription.

By the end of the war, nearly 25% of the total male population of the UK and Ireland had joined up - about 5 million in total; just over half were volunteers.

DORA RESTRICTIONS

DORA is the acronym used for the **Defence of the Realm Act** *(1914)*. It was passed four days after the war started and gave the government wide-ranging powers to control anything that might affect the war effort. Amongst many other things, bonfires were prohibited (as they could attract *Zeppelins*), binoculars could not be sold, and invisible ink was banned. The aspects of most interest to us are the powers to requisition (e.g. horses) and to control ***alcohol consumption***.

Alcohol was considered detrimental to the war effort on the home front. The **Central Control Board** *(Liquor Traffic)*, also referred to as the **CCB**, was set up in May 1915 through an amendment to **DORA**. Its remit was to control the supply of alcohol in any area necessary to the efficiency of the war effort. Over time it reduced opening hours from between 16 to 19½ hours daily to 5½ hours and alcoholic strength from an average gravity of 1046 to 1030, while doubling the price. Caps were also placed on beer production.

The actions of the CCB resulted in widespread reductions in drunkenness and incidences of cirrhosis of the liver. In addition, the CCB contributed to the increase in women using pubs by supporting gender equality in drinking. This was partly to avoid conflict with feminist organisations, but it also encouraged pub improvement to attract *'respectable'* women to mitigate the pre-war male *'drinking-den'* culture.

BREWING RESTRICTIONS
DURING THE WAR

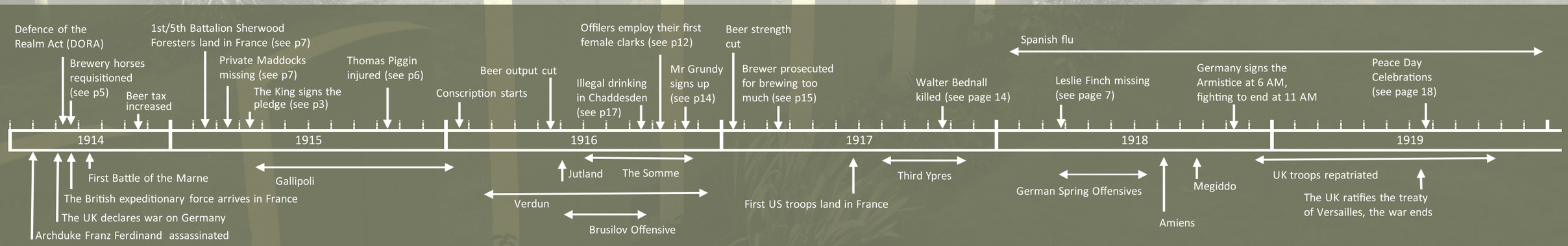
Due to the shortage of sugar - most of which was shipped across the *Atlantic* and so was vulnerable to submarine attack - along with a desire to switch agricultural production to foodstuffs, the amount of beer permitted to be brewed was progressively reduced throughout the war.

The *Output of Beer Restriction Act 1916* reduced production for year-ending March 1917 to 26 million barrels, four million fewer than the previous year, ten million down on 1914's level. In January 1917 the war cabinet introduced a further cut of 30%, down to ten million barrels. To further reduce materials the average gravity was reduced to 1030, an ABV of about 3%. Even so some pubs only had enough beer to sell at weekends.

THE ARMISTICE

The Armistice was signed just after 5am on the 11th of November 1918. However, to allow time for all the fighting forces to be informed, it did not come into effect until 11am. Fighting continued right up until that moment. On that morning alone, there were 2,738 deaths recorded and 10,944 casualties. The last British soldier to die on the battlefield was 40 year old Private George Ellison who was shot by a sniper at 9.30am, several others died of their wounds after the Armistice. George is buried facing the grave of the first British soldier to die, 17 year old Private John Parr, who was killed on 21 August 1914. The youngest known British soldier to serve was Private Sidney Lewis who lied about his age to volunteer to fight. He was only 12 years old when he fought at the Battle of The Somme in 1916.

TIMELINE



WHAT IS A BATTALION?

In 1914 a Battalion was typically commanded by a ***Lieutenant Colonel*** with **30 Officers** and approximately **1000 men** including **16 stretcher bearers**, which by 1918 had been increased to **32**. Typically, a battalion spent 5-10 days per year in intensive action, 60-100 days per year in the front-line trench without action. During rest and recovery periods there was continual training and fatigues.

When a battalion engaged in front-line action, 108 men were left behind to form the nucleus for rebuilding in the event of heavy casualties being suffered. As the war progressed and casualties increased a depleted battalion would be absorbed into another to form a full-strength battalion. Battalions of the **Sherwood Foresters** *(Notts & Derbys Regiment)* served in France, Ireland and Gallipoli.

WARTIME WEEKLY WAGES

In 1914 a skilled working man could expect to earn around **£2 5s** (£2.25) a week, a labourer might get about half that. By the end of the war wages had risen to about £5 for skilled workers, and **£3 15s** (£3.75) for labourers. Women would, of course, have been paid significantly less for equivalent work.

1914 Labourers	£1 2s - £1 6s (£1.10 - £1.30)
Skilled manual	£2 - £2 10s (£2 - £2.50)
1920 Labourers	£3 10s - £4 4s (£3.50 - £4.20)
Skilled manual	£4 9s - £5 2s (£4.45 - £5.10)

Source: Hansard 30 July 1925

SPANISH FLU

The *influenza* or *H1N1* virus was a much more formidable killer than any man-made weapon of the War. The ***Spanish flu*** epidemic of January 1918 to December 1920 killed an estimated 50 to 100 million people worldwide - between two and five times as many as in the war itself. It has, however, been argued that the severity of the outbreak was owing to the circumstances brought about by the war. Soldiers in poor general health and in close contact with infected colleagues were often travelling great distances to return home or to another battlefield before they showed the worst symptoms, and so passed the bug on to others with whom they came into contact.

MUNITIONS GIRLS

Between 1914 and 1918 the national percentage of women in employment jumped from 24% to 37%. Before the war 31% of women in Derby were in employment. Predominantly young and unmarried, the 1911 census records them as employed mostly in domestic service.

As men enlisted, women filled the gaps, particularly in munitions manufacture, office work and transport. Offilers appointed their first female clerks, including Miss Offiler, daughter of the director, from October 1916 at a salary of £5 per annum. Strettons advertised for a capable female chauffeur in 1917, and Offilers for female dray workers - both jobs previously only taken on by men.

Women working at the Midland Railway works filling shells (credit DLSL)

Women working at the Midland Railway works filling shells (credit DLSL)

Around 500 "Munitions Girls" were employed at the Midland Railway Locomotive Works, making, servicing and repairing shells. This was dangerous and demanding work for young women, but well paid.

Paid munitions work meant independence and disposable income. The women were young and wanted to enjoy themselves after the stresses of the working day. There were a number of pubs close to the Locomotive works: The Brunswick, The Alexandra, The Station, Midland Rd., Wine Vaults (now the Merry Widows) and The Queen Victoria were willing to welcome their custom. Landladies behind the bar and more female customers made these formerly male preserves more appealing.

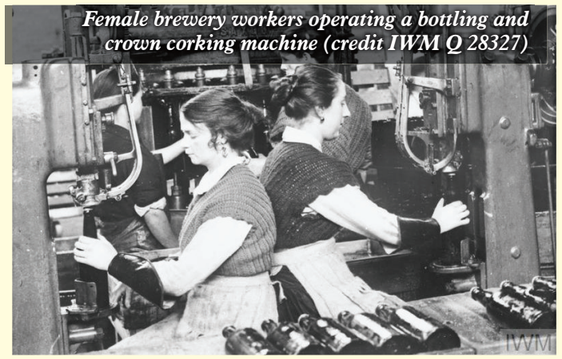
WOMEN, WAR WORK AND WANTONNESS

Concerns that women were frequenting public houses were being raised even before the war, but the increase in women replacing men in the workplace brought the issue into full public scrutiny. According to historian Robert Duncan, respectable Edwardian women were not expected to drink in public, however by the start of the war between 25 and 30% of pubgoers were female.

Many equated drinking with being drunk and with lewd behaviour, so assumed that if women went into pubs they would be more sexually active and responsible for a rise in sexually transmitted diseases. For a short while DORA regulations even allowed policewomen to enter women's homes to check they were in bed and alone, however this was soon abandoned as being too intrusive.

A letter by Lady McDougal printed in The Methodist Times, and reprinted locally, claimed that the newly employed women spent their money "over the bar of the public house, instead of the tills of the butcher and grocer." However, research carried out at the time by the Women's Advisory committee found this wasn't the case, and concluded that women's income generally went on improving the life of their families. Stories of women such as Mary Griffith of Yates Street in Derby were thankfully unusual. Mary's husband was a soldier who had lost his life during the war leaving her with five young children to bring up on a meagre pension. Struggling to cope, Mary took to drink and neglected her children. The children were removed to the workhouse while Mary was given a month to sort herself out.

Derby Temperance Society called on the Borough to adopt the Hartlepool regulations which had placed a ban on women entering licensed premises, but the council did not acquiesce. The Derby branch of the British Women's Temperance Association held a national conference in Derby in 1918 entitled Women and the Drink Trade. Their restrictive resolutions were passed to the licensing authority, the clergy and the Watch Committee, no doubt in the hope they would be adopted officially.



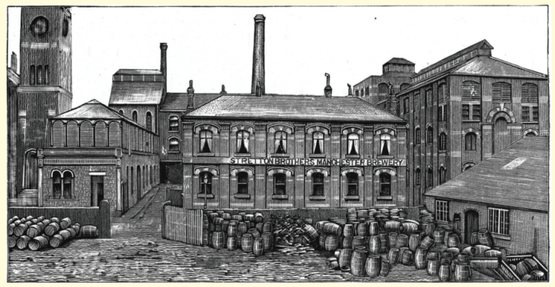
Female brewery workers operating a bottling and crown corking machine (credit IWM Q 28327)

It is generally accepted today that the fear of women's earning power causing drunken and wanton behaviour was grossly exaggerated during the war. Once women had found enjoyment in sisterly company outside the home it became imperative to improve facilities and develop new pubs with a more inclusive environment.

BREWERS IN THE CROSS-FIRE

On the outbreak of war Derby had three brewery companies – Offilers, Strettons and Altons - each with their own tied estate, along with a significant number of pub brewers, possibly as many as 50. Although Strettons had bought Altons in 1903, the latter was run as a separate business until its closure in 1922.

In the years leading up to the war, Stretton's saw themselves as under attack on three fronts. At the Brewery's annual dinner in 1912, Walter Finch (Head Brewer), proposing "Success to the firms" said that "he did not wish to be a pessimist, but they were passing through times which he had never known during the 28 or 29 years he had been in the trade." He cited the "iniquitous licensing taxes" (introduced by David Lloyd George) and the doubling or trebling in the price of hops. The third attack, which perhaps hurt the most, was from the temperance movement, which they believed was responsible for "legislation specially directed against [our] trade". Mr Hargraves countered with "none of [us are] ashamed of the trade with which [we are] connected […]. (Applause)".


Strettons Brewery, Ashbourne Road (credit DLSL)

The dinners continued in 1915 and 1916, as did the attacks on Lloyd George. Breweries were "grossly overtaxed" and either "he had singled them out purposely" or "he was a bad financier". The feeling that brewers were looked down upon still rankled "when [we are] heavily taxed [we] ought not to be lectured as well." Loss of trade due to the "manhood going to the front" and legislation to increase prices and reduce hours had (in 1915) resulted in job losses, even though 43 men had volunteered.

Nevertheless, Mr. Ryde (chief cooper), proposing the health of the directors, and evidently one who knew how to tug a forelock when needed, said that "he had no doubt that in the hands of the present directors' things would come out better than they anticipated."

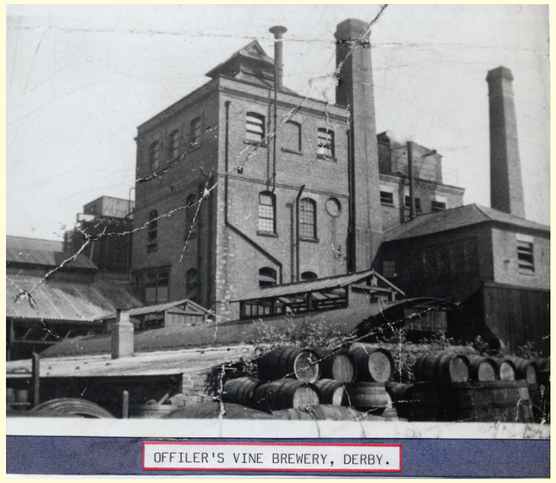
By the 1916 dinners 66 members of the staff were serving with the colours and every eligible member of staff had attested. At least four of the staff had been killed. For the employees the numbers were 73 serving and 30 attested. Mr Hargraves was satisfied with the numbers and was "quite convinced" that all serving "would be glad to know that the entertainment was taking place." For whatever reason, no further annual dinners were held before the conclusion of the war.


Alton's Wardwick Brewery (credit DLSL)

The answer to the question "How did the brewers do in the war" is, for Derby's brewers at least, "very nicely, thank you". Offilers profits nearly doubled from £8500 in 1914 to £15000 in 1918, and increased by almost a further 50% to £26,500 in 1919. Altons increased profits by around a third during the war from £22,000 to £30,000 whilst Strettons announced record profits and increased dividends throughout the war.

However, many smaller pub brewers who were unable to procure large stocks of raw materials or to cope with the loss of men to the armed forces did not fare so well and many ceased brewing. Indeed, nationally the number of brewers fell from 4500 in 1910 to 3000 in 1920 although the amount of beer brewed only declined marginally during the same period.

Offilers Brewery, Ambrose Street (credit The Brewery History Society)



WALTER BEDNALL
"UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN"

Walter Bednall was one of many Derbyshire licensees who joined the armed services. He was the landlord of the home brew pub, the Woodlark in Bridge St, Derby. The beer was brewed in a brewhouse shared jointly with The Ram, next door. As was customary when licensees joined the armed forces, the authorities allowed the licence to be transferred

The Woodlark

to Walter's wife Frances in January 1917. At that time over 90% of those who joined were conscripts. Walter would have been about 27.

He grew up in the New Normanton area of Derby and was one of thirteen children, five of whom died in childhood. He had been a fish dealer before becoming the landlord of the Woodlark in 1915. Walter married Frances Maud Cross in November 1914, when he was 26 and she was 34. She was a widow, then living in Morleston Street. She had married her first husband, Sidney Fearon Cross, a joiner, in 1903 and he died in 1913 aged only 39. She was no stranger to the pub business: her Father, William Westmoreland was landlord of the Hen and Chickens, Walker Lane, Derby. In 1911, Frances was living there with her mother and father, her husband and their three daughters, a fourth child having already died. Her married sister with two children was also living there. It was a household of 10, living in cramped surroundings. Morleston Street must have been a welcome step up.

Walter served in the 10th Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters and was one of 50,000 allied troops who were killed in the second battle of Passchendaele on 29 October 1917. It was the culminating battle in the third Battle of Ypres and was fought under appalling conditions with the ground cut up by artillery and many men drowning in thick mud produced by the winter rains. Walter was initially buried in one of the smaller burial grounds, but after the armistice those interred on the battlefield or in small burial grounds were brought into the larger cemeteries.

Walter was finally laid to rest in the

Walter Bednall's grave
(credit Ian Forman)

Artillery Wood Cemetery just north of Ieper (Ypres). The upper part of his headstone is weathered and due for replacement. The inscription "Until we meet again" chosen by Frances remains as clear and as poignant as it was 100 years ago. Frances continued to run the Woodlark for several years after the war, and it remains open today, although no longer brewing its own beer.

Inscription chosen by his wife
(credit Ian Forman)

MR GRUNDY
A SURVIVOR

Mr Grundy was a First World War veteran although was not a decorated hero or famous but uniquely he did lend his name to a Derby pub and his image appears on the pub sign.

Caricature of Grundy as an older man

He was born on 31 October 1897. His father ran the family business – Grundy's provisions on King Street. The family were of sufficient social status to arrange for a Crown Derby Porcelain mug to be produced to celebrate Clifford's birth. The mug resurfaced in 2012 when it was auctioned.

He was too young to enlist at the start of the war, but later joined the Notts and Derby Regiment, otherwise known as the Sherwood Foresters. A London Gazette announcement in November 1916 states that he had been commissioned as a Lieutenant which would have been on or around his 19th birthday. In due course Grundy received the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

In 1923 he married Florence Edith Aulton and gave his address as King Street, Derby. The marriage lasted 61 years until Florence's death in April 1984. By 1939 he was working as an inspection engineer and drove 30,000 miles annually, according to details given when he was convicted for drink driving that year.

A few years later the Grundys moved to 36 Ashbourne Road, Derby and lived in the building adjoining the Georgian House Hotel. When 36 Ashbourne Road was converted to a public house the new owners chose to name it after the previous occupant and feature his image, in Notts & Derby uniform, on the pub sign and in promotional literature. So Mr Grundy's Tavern came into being as, hopefully, a permanent record to a First World War soldier. There is also a Mr Grundy's brewery on the site which produces beers such as 1914, Bullet, and Sniper.

Sadly, Clifford Grundy didn't live to see the pub open as he passed away in January 1991 at the grand old age of 93.

Pub sign with Mr Grundy in uniform

LLOYD GEORGE'S BEER

In 1915 the publicly teetotal Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lloyd George, famously claimed that the country was fighting three enemies, "Germans, Austrians and Drink" and then stressed "as far as I can see, the greatest of these foes is Drink."

To deter drunkenness, especially amongst munitions workers, the Government restricted the strength of beer to 2.5% abv. This was deeply unpopular amongst drinkers who were used to the pre-war beer strength of 5 - 6% abv.

The breweries and Licensed Victuallers Association also became concerned that the lower strength beer would reflect badly on their reputation for producing and selling good ale. It was stressed publicly that they were not responsible for the weaker beer. Bass went further and proposed using a series of bottle labels overprinted with the words "Government Ale" and "War Office" to deflect the criticism back to the Government. Unfortunately for Bass, the Government anticipated the breweries would make their objections known and decreed "No one may by advertisement, placard, or circular describe beer of gravity less than 1036 deg as 'Government Ale' or 'Government Beer'." The Bass labels were therefore never used.

However, a popular music hall entertainer of the day, Ernie Mayne disgusted at Lloyd George's decree, penned a satirical little ditty called 'Lloyd George's Beer' so everyone could at least sing of their dissatisfaction at the imposition (see p2 for lyrics).

TOO MUCH BEER

One Sunday morning in March 1917 Edward Morley, licensee of the Wagon and Horses, Ashbourne Road, received an unexpected visit from Customs and Excise. The officer had called "for special reasons", probably acting on a tip-off.

The officer discovered there were no records of brewing taking place in the previous three weeks but saw a grain bag with a bucket underneath and found the copper was still hot. He reached the unsurprising conclusion that brewing had indeed been taking place. Further investigations revealed a further 200 gallons of beer hidden behind crates of soft drinks.

Mr Morley told the Excise officer that he thought a brew had taken place during the night and "Joe [Cooper, his brewer] had been up to tricks". Joe was, he explained, "rather deaf – sometimes very deaf – and had misunderstood my instructions". Brewing was taking place for the Gallant Hussar and the Golden Eagle (managed by Joe Cooper) as well as the Wagon and Horses.

Mr Morley who was borough councillor for Friargate Ward explained that he had neglected his business affairs as he had been too busy with the many public duties he had undertaken, but accepted responsibility for the actions of his brewer. The excess beer had been brewed to help protect the licensees of the houses from potential abuse from customers when they discovered there was no beer available. He had also contributed £50 to King George's Fund for Sailors, a payment he accepted was "conscience money" as he did not wish to profit from over production. Any monetary punishment he received would be insignificant compared to damage to his standing and reputation.

The magistrates fined Morley a total of £50 for failing to keep records and brewing above his allowance.

This conviction did not appear to have had too much of a detrimental effect on Mr Morley's political career, for although he retired as a licensee in November 1918, the licence transferring to Walter Buxton, he continued as a borough councillor until 1925.

Joe Cooper (the brewer), despite being "sometimes very deaf", was called up to the army. The license for the Golden Eagle transferring to his wife Lilly, at the same Brewster session as Edward Morely retired. Joe survived his brief period of military service, probably never seeing action and returned to take over the Golden Eagle which he ran for several years, before taking on the Shakespeare on Sadler Gate.

Wagon and Horses in 2004.
The pub is now closed.

A COSTLY PUB CRAWL

A "sad story of drunkenness" involving wounded soldiers was told in a case heard at Bakewell Petty Sessions and reported in the Derby Telegraph in January 1915.

In the dock was Frederick Sheldon, landlord of the Rutland Arms in Baslow. He was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises the previous month but pleaded not guilty.

On 9 December a party of men from Bakewell ordered a carriage and they went on what was basically an all-day pub crawl taking in Hassop and Calver and ending in Baslow. The party consisted of a Mr. Ollivant, landlord of the Queen's Arms, Bakewell, a naval warrant officer named Balfour and two un-named wounded soldiers who were staying at the local Red Cross hospital, one a Cameron Highlander and the other a driver in the Royal Garrison Artillery.

In Baslow they visited "practically every public house in the place" ending in the Rutland Arms. The police chose only to pursue the landlord of the last pub on the crawl as every other landlord could have claimed that the men became worse for wear after they left their premises.

Rutland Arms, Baslow

The party arrived back at Bakewell just after 6pm. Both soldiers were returned to the hospital and immediately placed in cells to sober up. When the cells were visited at 8am the next morning the Highlander was found to have escaped and was discovered on the roof of the building.

The soldiers were "subsequently removed under armed escort to Sheffield" where they were "dealt with by the military authorities".

The prosecutor advised the magistrates that they were entitled to draw the inference that if these men were in a drunken condition when they arrived back at the hospital, they were in a drunken condition at the Rutland Arms.

The landlord's solicitor was able to sow seeds of doubt in the magistrates' minds by advising them that the defendant had been in the licensed trade for 33 years without complaint and produced witnesses who stated that they saw nothing in the behaviour of the party to lead them to suppose that they were drunk.

The magistrates decided that the case was not conclusive, so they gave the defendant Frederick Sheldon the benefit of the doubt.

BREW IT *YOURSELF*

An intriguing advert appears in the Derby Almanac for 1917. It advertises a hop and malt extract made by Colemans of Norfolk sold solely for the purpose of brewing beer at home and is probably a forerunner of the home brew beer kit. For many years, Derby publisher and stationers, Harwoods produced an annual local almanac to give to their customers at Christmas. Strangely, the advert is the only non-local and non-stationery related one in the book.

Prior to the war the Inland Revenue act of 1880 only allowed people to brew their own beer on payment of a licence costing 6/- (30p) annually. This beer was strictly not for resale, with a large fine of £100 and confiscation of brewing utensils for infringements. Many people would not have taken up personal home brewing, and have to pay what was then an expensive licence. This licence remained in place until the 1960s, hence the growth in home brewing at that time.

Prime Minister, Lloyd George, was keen to discourage public drunkenness and to reduce alcohol consumption. It was thought that if workers could be encouraged to spend their evenings at home, they would be less likely to over indulge and be more productive. The Light Beer Order of 1915 deemed that a brew below 1016OG, or 2% abv was "not technically intoxicating liquor" and was therefore permitted, providing it was brewed on non-licensed premises and was not for resale. In other words, it could be brewed at home for personal use.

Judging by the lack of information about either the retailer, Spencer and Layton, or the product, it didn't prove particularly popular. In fact, the advert in the almanac appears to be the only reference to the product.

Credit: DLSL

DON'T TREAT THE WOUNDED

Although soldiers serving at the front were given a daily drink allowance (1/16th pint of rum – which approximates to a 35ml shot) and often a double ration before going over the top - wounded servicemen were not granted the same privileges. They were forbidden to drink or to go into a pub even when back in the UK. Rules and regulations were often flouted however.

Mrs Luty, commandant of the Red Cross Hospital in Spondon claimed that convalescent soldiers often returned to the hospital worse for drink supplied, she maintained, by local women and village boys earning a bit of pocket money. In September 1916 she persuaded the local police to investigate. Two officers were assigned to the case and followed a group of soldiers in hospital uniform into a Spondon field. Two of them, accompanied by two women Mrs Little and Mrs Knapp, set off along a footpath towards Chaddesden where one of the women bought several bottles of beer from the Wilmot Arms, giving one to the soldiers to have a drink. At this point the police intervened charging the women with an offence under DORA.

The local magistrates took a dim view of the case and stressed the seriousness of the crime, telling the women they could face a fine of £100 or six months in gaol, but were prepared to be lenient in this case and gave the women the option of £5 fine or one month behind bars. Other potential offenders were warned that further cases would be dealt with severely. The soldiers, the alleged instigators of the offence, would have been dealt with by military rather than civil courts.

Spondon House Hospital

A few weeks later a similar case was brought before the magistrates when Katherine Hynes of Chapel Street, Derby was accused of buying a jug of beer from the New Flower Pot and taking it home to give to some soldiers convalescing in the Duffield Road Hospital. Mrs Hynes denied the offence, claiming the beer was for herself and a friend, Mrs McDonald, who along with one of the soldiers, John Myatt, backed up her story. The nurse in charge of the hospital, Miss Walker Wilson, said she had seen no evidence of men suffering any effects of drinking.

The case was dismissed for want of conclusive evidence but warnings were issued that supplying beer to men undergoing treatment was "most foolish" and this should be a warning as "there was a good deal of that sort of thing going on in the town".

HIDING LIGHT ALE UNDER A BUSHEL

Arthur Jackson of the Exeter Arms was prosecuted when an excise officer visiting to check a brew "happened" to visit the stable and find several buckets of undeclared wort. Mr Jackson claimed that as the brew had produced more beer than the cellar could hold, the excess had been removed to the stable. Jackson said it would be added to the spent grain which he sold to a local farmer for cattle feed. It had not yet been tipped into the feed tub because a leak needed repairing before he did so.

The magistrates did not accept Mr Jackson's explanation and fined him £5 plus costs.

Exeter snug, drawn by Reg Newcombe

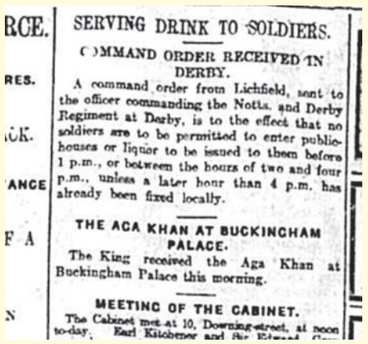
LESS TIME TO DRINK

The following announcement, reported in the Derby Daily Telegraph in November 1914, would not have done anything to improve the morale of any serving or potential Sherwood Forester troops in Derby.

A command order from Lichfield to the officer commanding the regiment reduced the hours that soldiers were permitted to drink in the afternoon. With immediate effect they were not allowed to enter a public house or have liquor served to them before 1pm, or between the hours of 2pm and 4pm, unless a later hour than 4pm had been fixed locally.

The soldiers' view on this command order was not recorded, nor whether their senior officers were made to forgo a drink with their lunchtime meal.

Credit: DLSL


SERVING DRINK TO SOLDIERS.

COMMAND ORDER RECEIVED IN DERBY.

A command order from Lichfield, sent to the officer commanding the Notts. and Derby Regiment at Derby, is to the effect that no soldiers are to be permitted to enter public-houses or liquor to be issued to them before 1 p.m., or between the hours of two and four p.m., unless a later hour than 4 p.m. has already been fixed locally.

THE AGA KHAN AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

The King received the Aga Khan at Buckingham Palace this morning.

MEETING OF THE CABINET.

The Cabinet met at 10, Downing-street, at noon to-day.

PEACE AT LAST

Although the Armistice was declared on 11 November 1918, the war formally ended on 28 June 1919 with the Treaty of Versailles.

In Derby the declaration of the Armistice brought jubilant crowds onto the streets waving flags and singing patriotic songs. To the delight of the local temperance movement the sobriety of that day allowed the Derby Telegraph to report there was "no greater amount of Bacchanalian revelry in the streets". (Bacchanalia were Roman festivals of Bacchus the god of wine). It was hardly surprising as by this time beer was weaker than it had ever been, more expensive and in short supply.

To celebrate the formal end of the war Prime Minister Lloyd George announced Saturday 19th July 1919 would be a Bank Holiday and 'Peace Day'. In Derby Mayor Alderman

Medal given to Derby children Credit: Gately / Newcombe

W. Blews Robotham, a member of the Temperance Movement, set up a Celebrations Fund Committee to raise funds and organise activities. These included sports events at a number of sites, a regatta, firework displays and street parties where children were given a special cup or mug to remember the day. For 25,000 school-children in the Borough of Derby a special medal was given to them for "endurance of the war on the Home Front". At all these events alcohol was noticeably absent.

On 19th July the "March of Victory Heroes" passed through the centre of Derby. Public buildings were richly adorned with bunting and flags. Cars and decorated floats followed by troops passed in front of huge crowds of on-lookers, many in fancy dress, throwing ribbons, flowers and confetti.

At the County Cricket Ground, a ticket-only carnival had been organised for ex-servicemen plus two guests. Here there were coconut shies, roundabouts, stalls, shooting galleries, music, dancing, sports, boxing matches and a well-stocked beer tent! Each ex-serviceman was treated to a free lunch and given ten shillings' worth of tickets to spend as they wished. Derby pubs were also granted an occasional licence which allowed an hour's extension to evening opening hours to 11pm. With the strength of beer now back at near pre-war levels the result was perhaps inevitable.

The Derby Temperance Society monthly publication of August 1919 condemned and deplored "outstanding features" of the Cricket Ground celebrations. "Drink brings disappointment and disgrace". The "superabundance of beer provided

Peace Celebration Mug Credit: Gately / Newcombe

parties responsible for the sad sights witnessed with but one idea - beer firstly, more beer secondly and thirdly beer again". An "inadequate supply of non-alcoholic drinks was a distinct encouragement to excessive drinking, leading to the exploitation of those who, having undergone the stress and strain of war, should be spared undue temptations to indulgence". The Derby Free Church Council passed a resolution: "There was an excessive provision of intoxicating drinks and an inadequate supply of non-alcoholic beverages". The Derbyshire Advertiser was more charitable and accepting: "Zeal outran discretion" but added "drunkenness on the County Cricket Ground was universally condemned".

Nobody would condone drunkenness, but Derby's war heroes had certainly earned the right to celebrate and it sounds as though they did!

1919 Street Party. Credit: Chris Gately

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DERBY'S DRINKERS IN WORLD WAR ONE

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24th JANUARY 2019 AT 7:30pm

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