

# HADLOW DOWN

## Remembers...



Souvenir Edition

March 2019

As the events in Europe seemed to make a continental war inevitable, people in the United Kingdom were not particularly concerned with what was going on in the Balkans and between Austria-Hungary, Russia, France and Germany. The worry at home, if anything, was the situation in Ireland and the very real prospect of a civil war over home rule. The British government was undecided whether they should get involved in a land war on the mainland of Europe up until the very last moment. At that point, they dispatched the British Expeditionary Force to France and started a massive recruiting campaign to increase the army by, initially, a million men.

**All of this would have been known and noted in Hadlow Down which was a very different place in 1914 to the village which we now know.** The main difference was that most of the men who lived here also worked either in, or close to, the parish, mainly connected in some way with agriculture. There were a number of shops in Main Road as well as three bakeries, the New Inn and a blacksmith. There was even an umbrella repairer. There were probably only two cars, one at the Grange and the other at Hadlow House; it's unlikely that their owners drove themselves as they both had chauffeurs. The village would have been a much busier place at that time and most people didn't have much need to travel far; almost everything they needed was available locally.

Hadlow Down was not entirely insular and the villagers interacted with other communities in various ways. The football and cricket teams played home and away matches and, more relevant to the situation in 1914, surviving military records indicate that several



of the men had joined in the territorial army, either the Royal Sussex Regiment or the Sussex Yeomanry. In addition to these men there were others who were already serving in the ranks of the army and Royal Navy, as regulars. Furthermore, two of C.L.Huggins', (of the Grange), sons were serving career officers at the outbreak of war and another was a member of the Honourable Artillery Company in London.

It would appear that, using data from the



1911 census, approximately 157 men would have been of an age to be eligible for military service in 1914. We have records that show 42 men enlisted in the first four months of the war and, of these, the majority, (30), were posted to the Royal Sussex Regiment, many, (13), in the 5th Battalion which had a company based in Uckfield. We can now only contemplate on the reasons why these men would have enlisted; patriotism would certainly have played a part, and some, as mentioned, were already in the territorial army or, as having served previously, were reservists so would have been automatically mobilised. Most of these early recruits were farm labourers, wagoners and other agricultural workers. It can be imagined that the prospect of joining a foreign adventure, with a uniform, decent boots and regular food and pay might have been attractive. Their average age was 23, the youngest being 17 and the oldest 37. 23%, (10), were killed and a further 2 died of natural causes during the war.

The Roll of Honour in the church lists 86 men as serving and from a newspaper report, it would appear that this roll was put up on the church door in December 1914. It includes many, (13), who were already serving before the war as regulars in the army and navy. There were still quite a number of eligible men who didn't volunteer and, as with those who did, it is interesting to reflect on their possible motives. Clearly, some would have been more cautious than their more adventurous neighbours and would have waited to see how things developed. Others would have had family or work commitments which prevented them from enlisting and others might just not have been fit enough for the army. Religious or moral scruples might also have prevented some from volunteering. Additionally, the haphazard survival of records undoubtedly means that we have not yet traced everyone who served in the forces. At least one early potential recruit was rejected as "unlikely to make an efficient soldier".

In 1914 the army thought that it could afford the luxury of turning volunteers away. Later in the war, Charlie Winter, from Upper Spoods Farm, was conscripted despite having a glass eye. Eventually most of those eligible either volunteered, or after 1916, were conscripted. There is evidence that several men appeared at tribunals appealing against their conscription but, usually, their appeal was rejected or, at best, they were given six months to get their affairs in order.

Casualties amongst the Hadlow Down men started to occur from the earliest battles of 1914 right through to September 1918. There were particularly bad times in 1915, when three men were killed in one day of May at Aubers Ridge and a further four in September at the battle of Loos. Throughout the war hardly a month passed when a telegram didn't arrive announcing the death of one of the

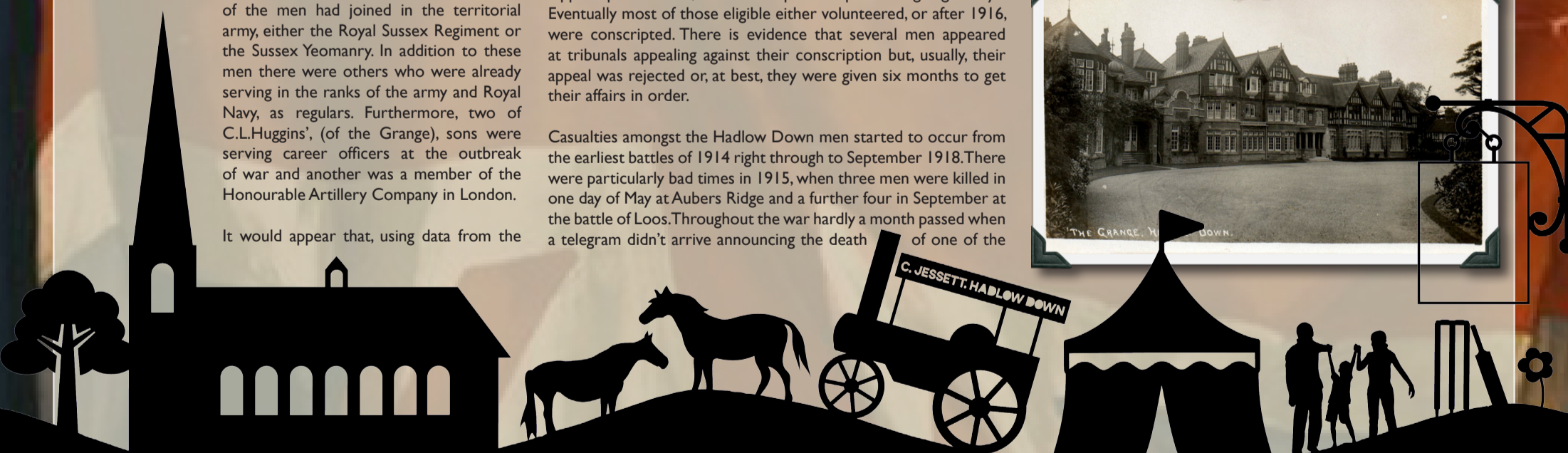
Hadlow Down men. We know that many others were wounded, gassed and suffered from shell-shock, sometimes badly enough to warrant their discharge from the army, but these records are more difficult to trace.

We only get brief glimpses of the lives of our men during the war and these are mainly from newspaper reports and the brief details given in the surviving service records. The majority of the men served in various infantry regiments, (including one man in the Cameron Highlanders), on the Western Front, so would have spent a good proportion of their time in the trenches. Others served in the Artillery, Engineers and the Army Service Corps and a few were in the Royal Navy and Royal Flying Corps. Apart from the Western Front they also fought at Gallipoli and in Italy and Mesopotamia. The men who served with the 5th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment found themselves in a pioneer battalion. These were fighting soldiers but their principal occupation was labouring in and near the front line; digging trenches and dugouts, laying roads and tracks and laying barbed wire whilst still required to take part in defence and attack when required.

Most men didn't rise above the rank of private, although some were promoted to non-commissioned ranks and at least four we know were commissioned from the ranks, (Allan Beale, George Cheeseman, Henry Pope and Alfred Smith). Several were awarded Military Medals and Military Crosses, one the Distinguished Conduct Medal and two, the Croix de Guerre.

Meanwhile, at home, life had to continue, but with the constant concern about sons, husbands and brothers who were serving at the front. The lack of young men must have given the village a different atmosphere and the women had to take on more of the work in the fields and in the shops. Various activities, such as concerts, whist drives and flag days, were organised to raise funds for comforts for the troops. The school also raised funds and their gardening club assisted by digging the gardens for men who were serving overseas.

The war finally drew to a close in November 1918 and the rather confused, process of returning the men to civilian life commenced. Most Hadlow Down men were back in the village by the middle of 1919. A peace day celebration was held at the Grange in July 1919 which included a short thanksgiving service, a dinner for all ex-servicemen and their wives, sports, fancy dress and fireworks. In the following years ex-servicemen's reunions and dinners took place at the school, but in 1922 permission was refused because, it was claimed, the school had been left in an unfit condition to be used by the children. Further dinners were thereafter held in the Red Triangle Hut, (Village Hall).



In the aftermath of the war reactions and attitudes seem to have varied although it is difficult now to discover how that might have been. The most obvious indication is the names listed on the plaques in the church. Five Hadlow Down men have been identified who were killed in the war but not shown on the memorial. Most can perhaps be understood as no longer living in the parish, but why was Albert Fry, (killed at Arras in 1917), not included? He had lived, and his family continued to live, in Nashes Farm. None of his brothers, who also served, are shown on the list of those who served. Similarly, only one Packham is shown on either list although several served. There were clearly some reasons, which we can only speculate about, why these men, who were long-term parish residents, were omitted.

How the men who had served in the forces dealt with their return to civilian life is unknown. One or two remained in the army or navy and one enlisted in an undercover unit fighting the IRA in Dublin. George Standen, who had enlisted, under-age, in 1914, re-enlisted in 1921 for a national emergency which, in the event, didn't happen. And Alf Sands, who was severely wounded and discharged from the army in 1916, continued to live in the village, hardly able to talk or walk, but still able to enjoy the occasional pint and game of crib in the New Inn. He died in 1956, one of Hadlow Down's last casualties of the Great War.

Colin Cracknell  
January 2019

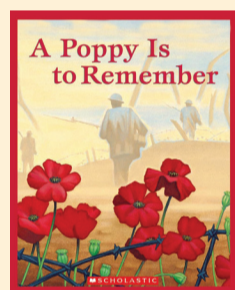
**The war finally drew to a close in November 1918 and the rather confused, process of returning the men to civilian life commenced.**

# WORLD WAR I

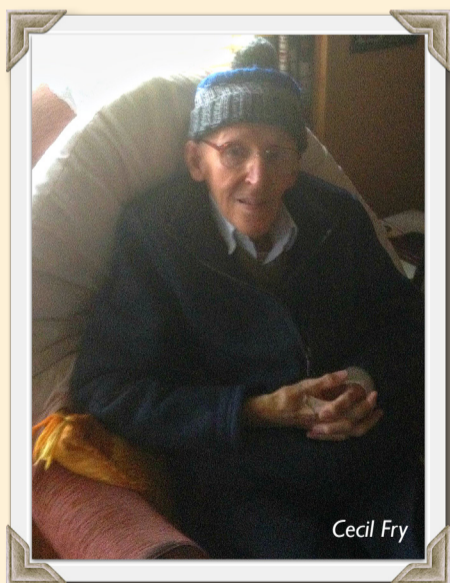
also known as the First World War, was a global war centred in Europe that began on 28 July 1914 and lasted until 11 November 1918. From the time of its occurrence until the approach of World War II in 1939, it was called simply the World War or the Great War, and thereafter the First World War or World War I.

This Newspaper has been produced by members of our Village community including some of the Children from St. Marks School and was funded by the National Lottery as part of the 'Remembering our Heroes' project. Awarded through the Heritage Lottery Fund's First World War then and now programme, the project focuses on paying tribute to the men and women from our community who bravely served their country during WWI, and also to the many millions of others who were killed or dreadfully wounded. On the 100th anniversary of this great and terrible struggle, we reflect upon the sacrifice of 1 million Commonwealth service men and women who were killed during the First World War. This project also commemorates the huge army of men and women on the home front who, often in dangerous and exhausting conditions, underpinned the war effort – keeping the wheels of industry turning and bringing home the harvests from rural areas like Hadlow Down.

**'Thank You'**  
to the First World War generation.



## Lest we forget...



Given the eight names of men from the village not recorded as having gone to war or having died in battle, volunteer Chris Marks undertook hours of research to trace their family trees and try and find living relatives. Contact was made with the descendants of them all but we only had a positive response from one, Cecil Fry who in his 90s is the nephew of Albert Fry.

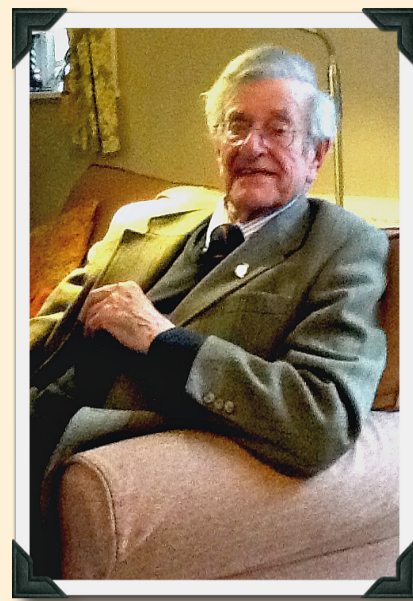
We visited him to learn more about the family and found that Albert was the 3rd of seven children (the picture taken at Nashes Farm shows all the brothers – from the left Jesse, Robert, Albert, Henry, Charles and Joe. Albert and 3 of his brothers (Robert, Henry and Charles) signed up at the start of the war. Albert had been a brickmaker before becoming a gardener; he joined up after the death of his wife, Ellen, in 1913 and his son, Albert, in 1914. Initially of the West Kent regiment and then Royal Fusiliers,



The Fry brothers at Nashes

His five brothers survived the war with Henry taking over the running of Nashes Farm. According to Cecil, Henry had 3 cows, pigs and chickens and bred Flemish Giant rabbits which he sold to the London market for their fur and meat. Other men on the village Memorial to Those Who Served, but not on Those Who Died Fred Baldock  
Born in Rotherfield 1895?  
Attended St. Mark's School.  
An F Baldock served in Royal Sussex Regiment and was killed in 1918.  
No other information.

## Reflections by Arthur George Razzell



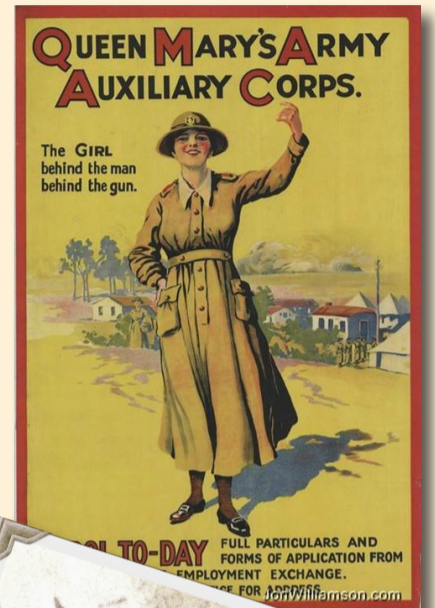
My father's younger brother – they served together for several years - was Arthur George was with the 4th London Rifles, my father with the 4th London Field Ambulance. In August 1918 they were both granted a week's leave in the UK. On 18th August my father came home but Arthur's leave was cancelled and they were put on battle alert. My father knew that his brother would almost certainly be one of the first soldiers "over the top" and he told my mother his brother was almost certainly dead. His body lies in the ground where he fell – no known grave. Named on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial – so few bodies are buried there compared with others with their row upon row of tomb stones to make "good" photographs.

Many women took on dangerous jobs. You are in a great position to think for a little bit on 1914-1918 being both a male and female war. I reckon working in a badly equipped shell filling factory was a lot worse than many soldiers faced. No safety laws in those days. It was a Great War for men and women; a national war for our Nation. Have you thought of the many women who suffered so much in the Great War? Men got killed – for them it was all over. Their wives, or mums' great suffering was only just beginning.

Two examples from my family:  
When my dad was called up as a Territorial Soldier – that day he lost his job and his pay. His soldiers pay was a quarter of what the family had been living on – but the rent needed paying; only one less to buy food etc for. There was a

voluntary soup kitchen but little more. Arthur George's wife was living with his family in Surrey but her mum and dad and two brothers were in Scotland. They took her in and there was little family connection until 2016!

John Beauchamp Wakefield  
Arthur Razzell: My mother's younger brother volunteered in May 2015. Arrived in France 1st Sept 1916 with the 8th London Regiment (P>O> Rifles). Promoted to corporal. Killed in action, 7th June his body sunk in the mud of Passchendale where he still lies, no known grave. He is named on the Ypres Menin Gate War Memorial also on Tiffins School Memorial.



Arthur George Razzell and Family

Horace (Harry) Brooman  
Royal Sussex Regiment and Royal West Kent Regiment  
Killed at Langemark, (near Ypres), July 1917.  
Born in Rye 1886, Living in Rye in 1911  
Noted in the Sussex Express, September 1914, as a Hadlow Down man serving in the Royal Sussex Regiment.  
Connection with Hadlow Down unknown.  
Also commemorated on the Rye War Memorial.  
On the Menin Gate Memorial.

Walter Sands  
Royal Sussex Regiment  
Killed at Amiens, July 1918.  
Born 1889, Buxted, (at this time half of Hadlow Down was in Buxted Parish).  
Attended St. Mark's School.  
Living with parents in Rotherfield in 1901.  
Living with the Fry family, as a boarder, in Spotted Cow Cottage, Pound Green, in 1911.  
Also commemorated on the Buxted War Memorial.  
On the Vis-en-Artois Memorial.

Men from the village not on either Memorial

Charles Henry Eastwood  
Royal Sussex Regiment  
Killed at High Wood, (the Somme), September 1916.  
Born 1897, Buxted.  
Attended St. Mark's School.  
Lived with parents in La Brea Cottage, Pound Green, in 1911.  
CWGC notes "of Eachon Wood, Buxted".  
On the Theipval Memorial.

Albert James Fry  
Royal Fusiliers  
Killed at Arras, May 1917.  
Lived with widowed mother and brothers at Nash's Farm in 1911.  
On the Arras Memorial.  
Three brothers, Charles, Henry and Robert, were also in the forces but are not on the memorial to those who served.  
Frys were still at Nash's Farm in 1939.

Darcy Rupert Ingham  
Royal Field Artillery  
Died in Mesopotamia, 1917.  
Born 1894, Hadlow Down.  
Family moved to Heathfield, Lindfield and by 1911, to Croydon.  
John Jarrett  
Royal Sussex Regiment  
Killed on the Somme, October 1916.  
Born 1889, Hadlow Down.  
Living in Rotherfield, as a boarder, in 1911.  
Mother lived in Hadlow Down until her death in 1940.  
On the Theipval Memorial.

Allan Vernon Stapley  
Royal Fusiliers  
Killed, May 1918, age 18.  
Born 1899, Hadlow Down.  
Living with parents in New Road, Buxted in 1911.  
Buried in Caberet-Rouge British Cemetery.  
He had enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in September 1915, although his sight was recorded as poor, declaring his age as 19 years and 22 days. Went to France in January 1916 and discharged as under age in March 1916.  
His brothers Aubrey and Henry also served but are not recorded on the memorial.

# REMEMBERING OUR HEROES

In the autumn of 2018, the Parish of Buxted and Hadlow Down received a National Lottery grant of £10,000 for a project 'Remembering our Heroes' within the parish but mainly in the Hadlow Down area. Awarded through the Heritage Lottery Fund's First World War then and now programme, the project focused on paying tribute to the men and women from our community who bravely served their country during WWI. Working with St Marks Primary School, volunteers and members of our community, we have worked to engage with all ages and investigate why, and how, we remember World War One. The project encouraged the school, volunteers and community to think about the experiences of the men, women and children who lived through World War One. No soldier from the 1914 to 1918 war is now alive to tell his story, however we can still see some of the soldiers and still hear their voices through their families and descendants.

To mark the Centenary of the First World War, the project enabled local people in the parish of Buxted and Hadlow Down to come together to preserve the memories and heritage of the people who lived through the First World War. Volunteers and the children in the school, supported by educational workshops and by local historians, collected photographs, newspaper clippings, documents, letters and photos of keepsakes, as well as family tales passed down to help them to build a clear picture of what life was really like.

The grant also enabled us to publish this souvenir newspaper to commemorate all those who served and suffered during WWI and to share some of the stories, images and artwork from then and now.

Vicky Richards & Sarah Prall



Over the Top



learning about the trenches



**These articles were written by the Children from the Red Admirals Class at St. Mark's School**

## In the Trenches

The war was a terrible thing and we, St Mark's primary school, had a day in the trenches. The wet muddy trenches in WWI were filled with a mixture of blood, mud and rotten flesh.

By Gracie

## Konflux Theatre Day

St Mark's Church of England primary school in Hadlow Down, was given the experience of a world war one theatre day for their year 5 and 6 class. The man chose several children to open the play. Then after a while we had everyone involved even people that didn't like acting. The play was almost a time line of all the different stages of the war. We all enjoyed it very much!

By Eleanor

## Arty Time

During our world war one project we got to have an arty time day with Beth. We made the three stages of war (before, during and after) using silhouettes and lots of other art supplies, for example paint, bubble wrap and templates. We all enjoyed this very much and hope to do it again. The class all made a poppy each to go with the display.

By Poppy and Lucia



Creating our artwork



## Visitors and their families in WWI

The Red Admirals got to interview some people whose families were in WWI. They told us some amazing stories about their connections with WWI. We all had jobs, for example, one person had to interview, another was filming etc. This was a fantastic experience and we found it fascinating to find out about their relatives wonderful stories.

## Home Front

Though the boys were gone, work still had to be done. Because of this, the women had to take over the boys' jobs which included: farming, carpentry and more, but some of the jobs changed because the men at war needed food, bullets, bombs and many, many more things. How did the children help? From the age of twelve, young children would work in factories. 600,000 children were put to work. Some joined the Boy Scouts, and girls joined the Girl Guides. In Hadlow Down the Headmaster recorded events as they happened and some of these are noted below:

## Diary entries

A letter from a soldier to his mum who is living back home:

### Dear Mum,

I miss you all so much. To be truthful war life isn't as good as I thought, but don't worry, I'm fine. I've seen people trying to escape (they all got shot). A few days ago I was digging a new trench and I got promoted to an officer! Maybe in a month or so I might get promoted to Second Lieutenant.

Jerry xxx

## Trip to the Imperial War Museum

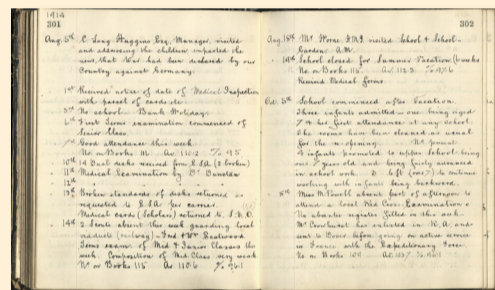
On the coach to the Imperial War Museum, everyone was excited. No-one was quiet, and no-one was sitting still.

Liam says: "I really enjoyed the trip. I saw all kinds of things. I would definitely like to go again. We learnt lots when we went inside. We saw air raid shelters, guns, swords and bayonets".

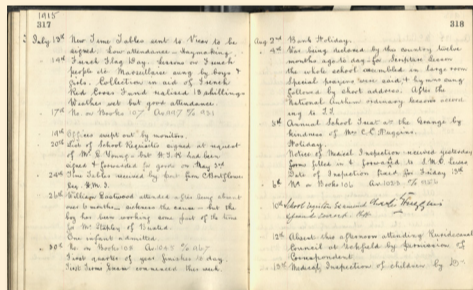
This is Liam's account: "I enjoyed it because there were lots of models and things to read and I really enjoyed myself."

# SCHOOL LOG BOOKS

East Sussex Record Office at The Keep, Brighton hold the school log books for St Mark's. A visit on a quiet Saturday morning I ordered up the relevant book covering 1914-1918.

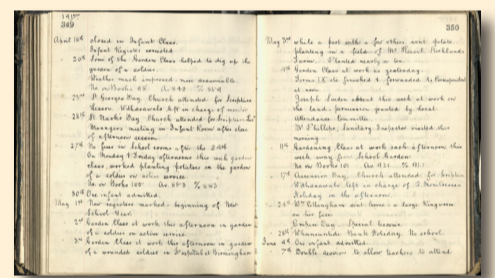


Using a 'stick' on their scanner to record all the information I turned each page and photographed any relevant information. Reading everything as I went along, ensuring that I missed nothing, I found it fascinating – lighting a stove to keep



warm as the temperature recorded 35 degrees, children were absent due to helping with the harvest, measles, chicken pox and one even had no shoes! There was also a shortage of books, the children grew vegetables in the playground and some eventually went home as they did not like school.

Chris Marks



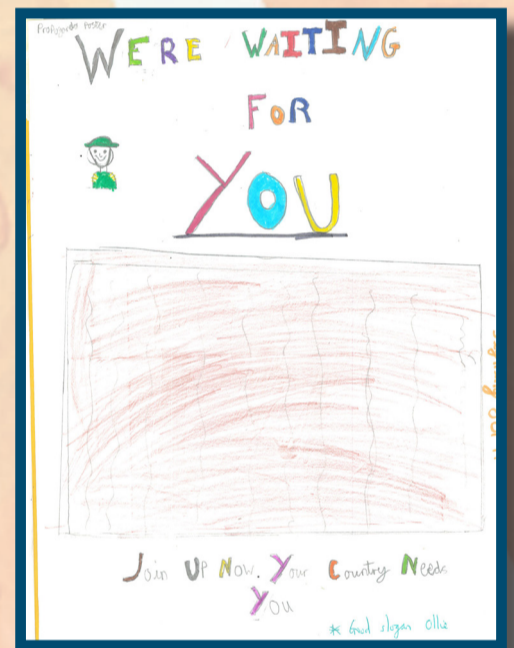
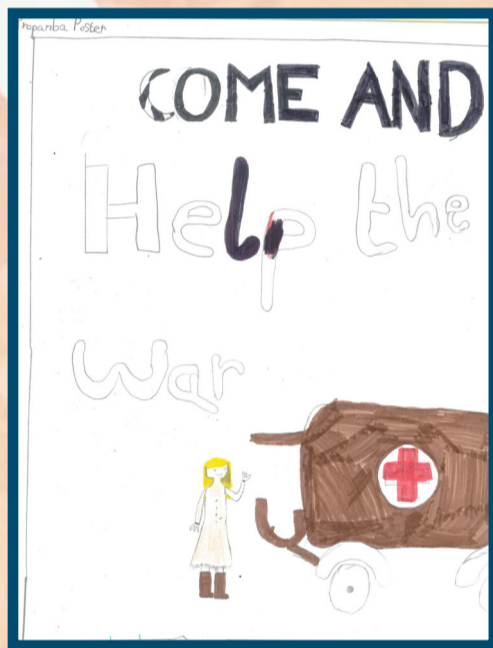
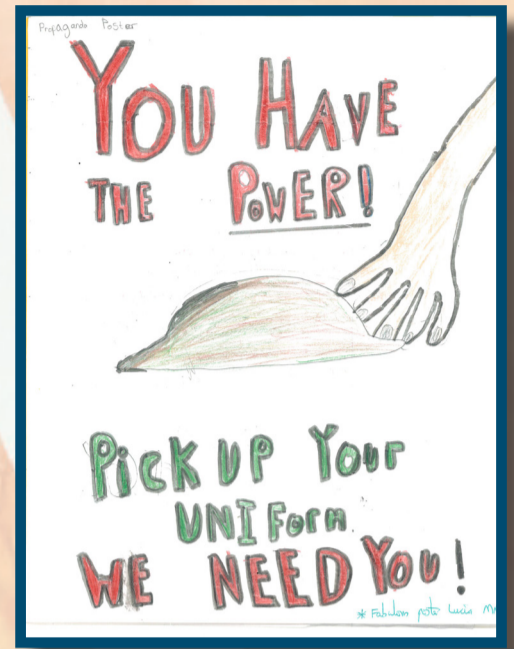
Jelly Babies date back to World War I when they were originally called "Peace Babies" to mark the end of the war. Production was halted during World War II due to wartime shortages, but in 1953 Bassett re-launched the product as "Jelly Babies."



Peace Babies

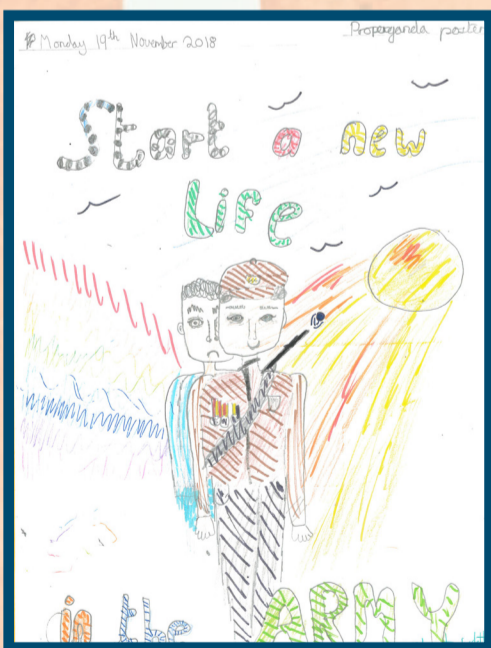
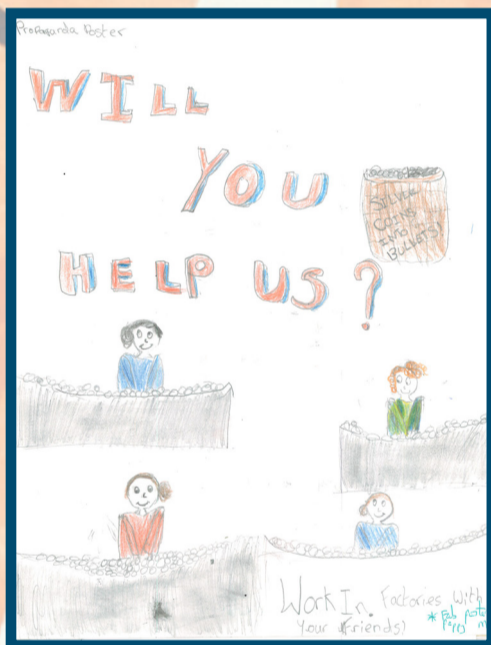
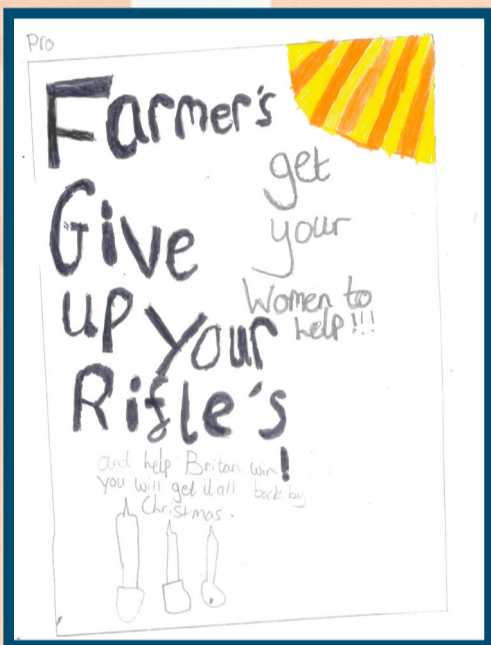
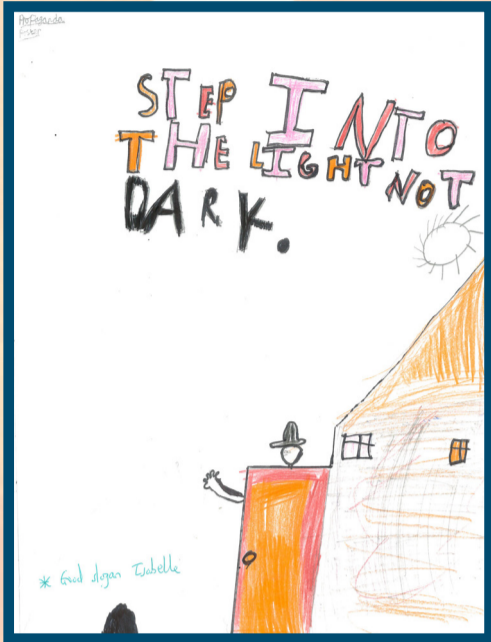
# WWI Propaganda posters reimaginee

The children visited the Imperial War Museum and saw examples of propaganda posters, opinion and fake news. They looked at how each country designed posters to reflect a  
The project culminated in the children designing propaganda posters encouraging us to



# made by children from St. Mark's School

...s from Britain, France and Germany. They then discussed the difference between facts, ... and promote their own point of view. They then carried out further research on line. ... plant vegetables at home and to join up.



# LETTERS TO BRODIE

During the War Captain Wallis Halford wrote regularly to his much younger brother Brodie. His drawings allow us a wonderful snapshot into his life and the world as it was back then. We reproduce some of them here with the very kind permission of Sandra and Vicky Richards. Captain Halford was their Grandfather.



**October 20, 1914**

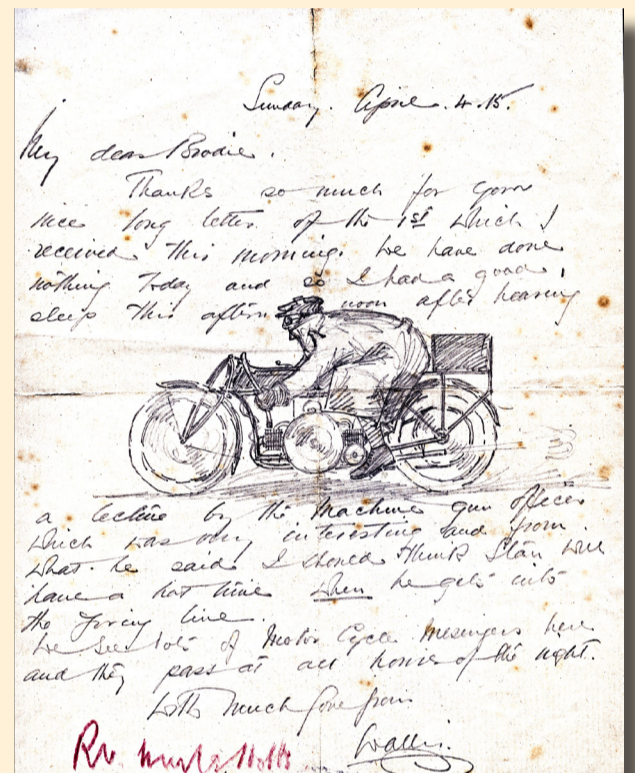
It is a very long time since I last wrote a letter to you and I hope you are having a good time at school with plenty of football. I am having quite a good time down here though the work is rather hard and I have been digging trenches all day.

**March 25, 1915**

My Dear Brodie,

So glad to hear from you yesterday s it is quite a long time since I had a letter from you. Hope you got the picture I sent you the other day showing some of our men on the boat repairing department. So far I have had quite a good time doing some fairly long marches and in some cases we do the journey by traffic bus and when we do this it takes about 90 buses and they are all English ones off the streets of London though they look very different now as they are painted grey all over even the windows being painted over.

I have seen 8 or 9 French aeroplanes and have been within hearing of the big gun at the front but I have not done any shooting myself yet. As you generally ask me to let you have some sketches when I can I am enclosing one or two which I have just made in the Guard Room where I am doing a 24 hour guard until 6.30pm tonight. I expect you will be looking forward to your holiday which will begin in about a week. Write to me again when you have time.

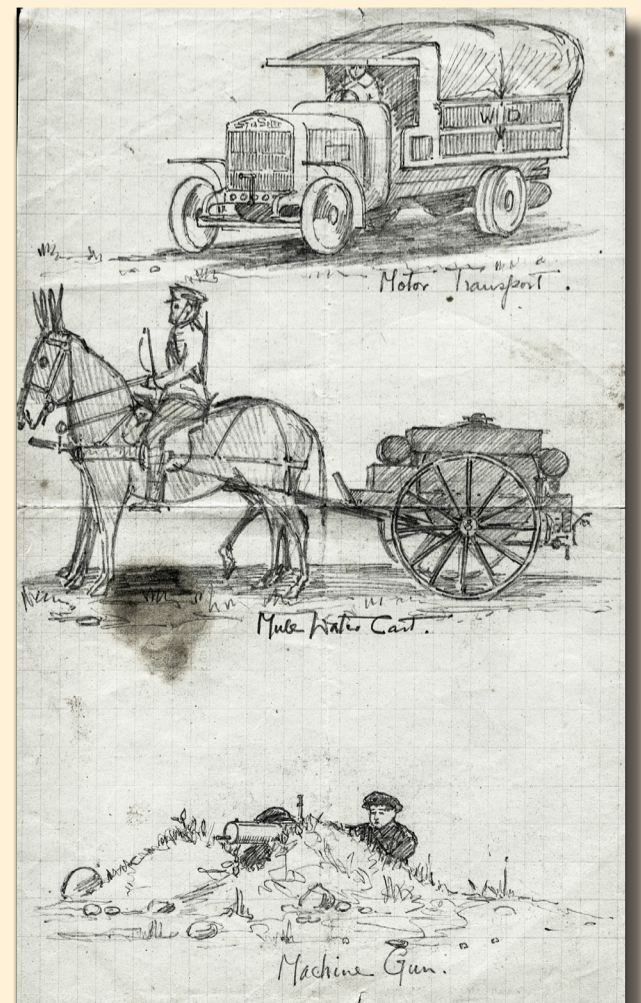


**April 4, 1915**

My Dear Brodie,

Thanks so much for your nice long letter of the 1st which I received this morning. We have done nothing today and I had a good sleep this afternoon after having a lecture by the machine gun officer which was very interesting and from what he said I should think Stan will have a hot time when he gets in the firing line.

We see lots of motorcycle messengers here and they pass at all hours of the night.



**May 4, 1915**

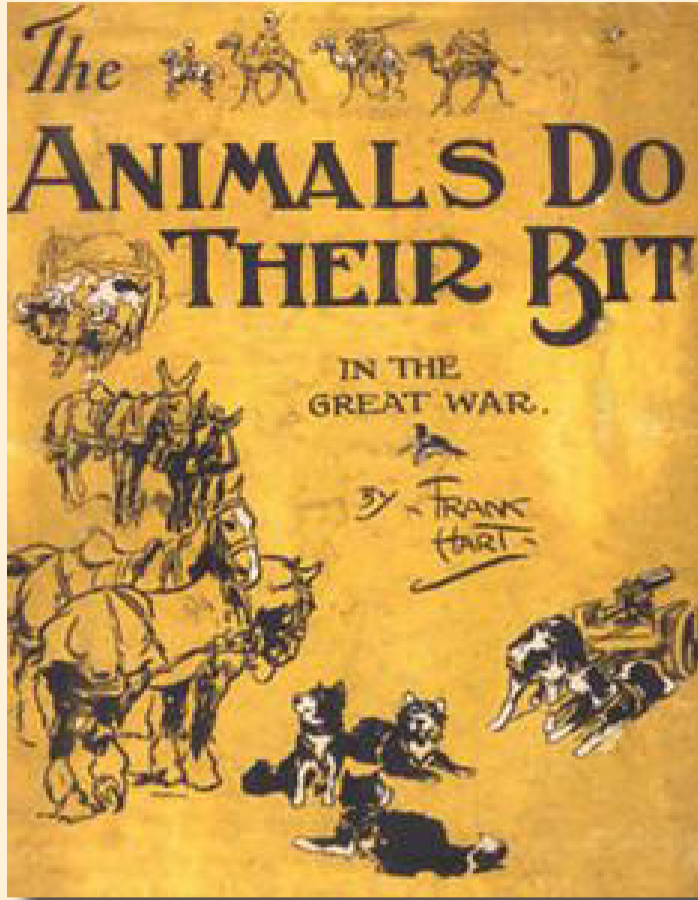
My Dear Brodie,

Thanks very much for your letter I know it is a very long time since I last wrote but I have not had much time and I am writing this letter as I sit in my dugout in the trenches of the firing line. This is a small place made of sand bags and earth dug out of the side of the trench in such a way that the shells from the German guns have some difficulty in getting at us. I see lots of aeroplanes and when there is a German one about there is generally a French motor car fitted with a machine gun chasing it and shooting at it.



These extracts and illustrations have been reproduced by kind permission of Sandra and Vicky Richards. Wallis Halford was their Grandfather.

# ANIMALS AT WAR



Over 16 million animals served in the First World War. They were used for transport, communication and companionship.

In 1914, both sides had large cavalry forces. Horse and camel-mounted troops were used in the desert campaigns throughout the war, but on the Western Front, new weapons like the machine gun made cavalry charges increasingly difficult.

However, animals remained a crucial part of the war effort. Horses, donkeys, mules and camels carried food, water, ammunition and medical supplies to men at the front, and dogs and pigeons carried messages. Canaries were used to detect poisonous gas, and cats and dogs were trained to hunt rats in the trenches.

Animals were not only used for work. Dogs, cats, and more unusual animals including monkeys, bears and lions, were kept as pets and mascots to raise morale and provide comfort amidst the hardships of war.



## Did you know that the original Winnie the Pooh was a mascot for a Canadian Infantry Brigade during the First World War?

When war broke out in August 1914 and Britain declared war on Germany, Canada, as the senior Dominion nation in the British Empire, automatically declared war as well. Having joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force, a soldier named Harry Colebourn was travelling across the country to reach his training camp. Colebourn had originally been born in England and emigrated to Canada aged 18. He attended the Ontario Veterinary College where he completed a degree in veterinary surgery before moving to the town of Winnipeg.

As he made his journey across Canada by train, Colebourn encountered a hunter selling a bear cub. He had recently killed the cub's mother and accepted a \$20 fee from Colebourn for the surviving cub. In remembrance of the town that he had left Colebourn named the cub Winnipeg, or Winnie for short. Colebourn was eventually deployed at Salisbury Plain in Britain where Winnie stayed as a mascot to the local forces. However, when Colebourn was sent to France for three years, he left Winnie to the care of London Zoo.

At the conclusion of Colebourn's war service in France, he formally donated

Winnie to London Zoo permanently before he returned to Canada.

It was here that he was seen by the author A.A. Milne and his son Christopher Robin Milne. Christopher was apparently so taken by the young cub that he immediately renamed his own teddy bear from Edward to Winnie the Pooh.

The adventures of Christopher Robin Milne and his toy Winnie would come to be the topic for A.A. Milne's world famous stories set in Ashdown Forest in East Sussex.

The original Winnie lived at London Zoo until 1934 when he died at 19 years old. A statue of Winnie and Harry Colebourn stands in London Zoo.

"Winnie The Pet" by Unknown, Colebourn Collection.

## Jim the Airedale

This brave Airedale terrier, called Jim, was trained to spot Zeppelins approaching the Kent coast.

Both on the battlefield and back at home, some incredible creatures helped to transport soldiers and goods – and save lives.

British families gave their pet dogs to the army so they could carry messages in special tubes on their collars (see above).

Dogs were fast, difficult to shoot at, and they also caught rats! Pet pigeons were drafted in to carry messages over long distances, often carrying news from the Front Line back to Britain — Germans trained hawks to kill any carrier pigeons they saw.

Sarah Prall

# ON THE HOME FRONT

## Dramatic changes

Life for women changed dramatically during the war because so many men were away fighting. Many women took paid jobs outside the home for the first time. By 1918 there were five million women working in Britain. The money they earned contributed to the family's budget and earning money made working women more independent. Many enjoyed the companionship of working in a factory, office or shop rather than doing 'piece work' at home.

## How did life change for women?

With men away at war, many women ran their homes alone. They cared for children and older relatives, managed money and often had a job as well. Shopping during wartime was hard with food and coal shortages and higher prices. The average food bill for a family of four rose from less than £1 a week in 1914 to over £2 in 1918.

Women's pay was lower than men's, even when they were doing the same work. However many working women were better off than they had been in the past. Women who took jobs in munitions factories, for example, were better paid than they had been in their previous jobs sewing clothes or cleaning houses.

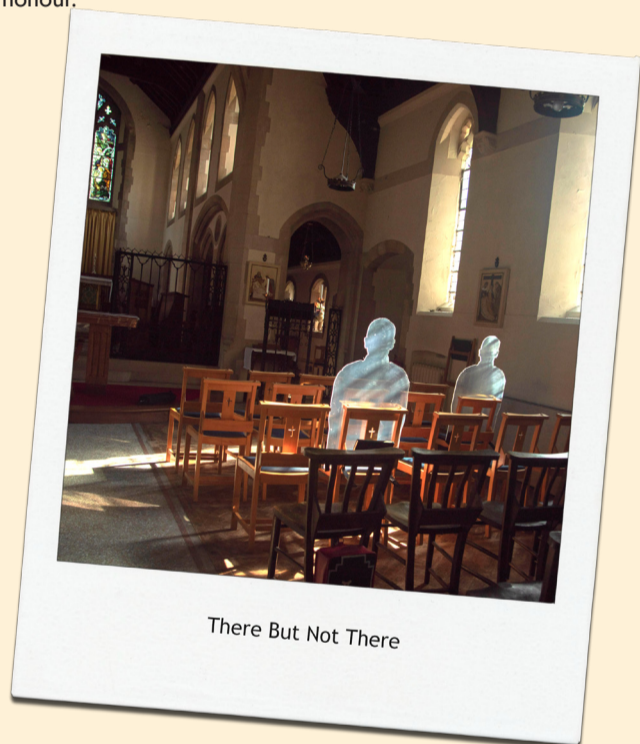


# THERE, BUT NOT THERE

What started as an installation of 51 seated silhouettes in a church in Penshurst has become an international collaboration in remembrance and commemoration of those who died in the First World War.

There But Not There silhouettes have been installed by thousands of communities around the UK. 6ft Tommies have been purchased by councils, businesses and community groups and commemorative 10" Tommies have been brought into the homes of over 80,000 people around the world. Hadlow Down purchased 11 silhouettes, two of which are seen here, pictured in St. Marks Church.

During the Hadlow Down Remembers exhibition, on March 2nd 2019, 5 silhouettes will be seen in the church, one for each man from the village who died and is not mentioned on the roll of honour.



# HADLOW DOWN'S WAR POET

The First World War was notable for some significant poets; Blunden, Sassoon, Graves, Owen and many others. Hadlow Down had its own, rather less well-known bard in James Packham.

Private Packham, of Hope Farm, who served in the Royal Sussex Regiment wrote letters home to his mother and sister, including a poem describing life in the trenches, which was printed in the Sussex Express in 1915:

In the trenches I'm sitting in a place upon my own  
Thinking of the dear old friends and the old folks at home.  
How I long to return to see old faces once more,  
Back to my dear old home, the place which I adore.

We stay in the trenches, both day and night,  
In front of us we have the Germans to fight.  
From one minute to another we do not know  
When our lives we have to let go.

Then there is the roaring of guns,  
Both from us and the Huns.  
While from the rifles, bullets they fly.  
You can hear them as they whistle by.

We draw our rations every day.  
They are not over great, I must say.  
They consist of bread, cheese and jam,  
And now and again, a piece of ham.

At night we keep a sharp lookout,  
For fear the Huns are creeping about.  
They creep into our trenches and bomb us if they can.  
But if we could only see them, we might lend them a hand.

Now in the trench it's rather a job to get a wash and shave,  
So we have to wait till we get out where we can get a bathe.  
You bet we need a bit of scrubbing, for dirt on us is thick,  
But if soap and water is plentiful, we very soon do the trick.

Now as for sleeping in the trenches, we get very little.  
For there's generally a little job to do, if it's only cook the kettle.  
Here and there a man is posted to keep on sentry go,  
In case anything should happen he'd soon let us know,

As I've no more time to spare and feeling tired too,  
I think I'll finish these little verses which I'm sending to you.  
This War we wish was at an end, we don't care how soon it comes.  
So that we can all return, back to our dear old homes.

He was wounded in June 1916 and subsequently transferred to the Labour Corps, which indicates that he was no longer fit enough for the rigours of front-line service. Apart from that he seems to have survived the war.

Colin Cracknell  
January 2019

# JOIN US FOR PEACE DAY 100

On Saturday June 22nd 2019 the Hadlow Down Village Fayre is back at The Playing Field. This year we will be marking the 100th Anniversary of the Peace Day celebrations held at the Grange in July 1919. With your help, we hope to recreate this photograph...



Peace Day, July 1919 at the Grange

It will be a good old Traditional Village Fayre. Please help us by dressing up for the day; Ladies in white with straw hats, gentlemen in shirt sleeves, waistcoats and caps or even in a vintage uniform if you like. The Vicar has promised he will come in his finery to bless us all and remember all those who suffered or gave their lives in the First World



War. It will be a very special moment to recreate this image 100 years on.

Come and join us in our vintage marquees for tea and cake or ale and burgers. We pride ourselves in offering local produce and a market place for local business. Plus we offer games, a bonkers dog show, a live band and Morris Dancing. We do hope you will join us for this very special event.

Sarah Prall

All information correct at time of going to press

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