

Introduction



Men of Oundle Leaving for War. From Peterborough Museum (CG127)

Contents

1. Introduction

The Visitors' Books

How to use the related sources & supporting resources

Overview of Themes & Activities

2. Food - Introduction

Food - Joseph Frederick Drewery

Food - Charles A.C. Walker

Food - WUTAC Receipts

Food - Rationing

3. Women - Introduction

Women - Lady Mary Glyn

Women - Crystobelle Layton

Women - Uniform

Women - Nursing

Women - Munitions

4. Prisoners of War - Introduction

Prisoners of War - John Bonshor

Prisoners of War - P.O.W Article/Life as a Prisoner of War

Prisoners of War - Newbould/ Internment

5. Countries - Introduction

Countries - Frederick Gordon Brettle

Countries - Thomas Hunter 'The Lonely ANZAC'

Countries - World Map

6. Railways - Introduction

Railways - Alf Davis

Railways - Station Master Ellis

7. Friendship & Family - Introduction

Friendship & Family - Arthur Firth

Friendship & Family - Stanley George Lawrence/Recruitment

8. Animals - Introduction

Animals - Batteries/Farriers/Horses & WW1

Animals - Bruno/Dogs & WW1

Animals - Jimmy the Donkey

Animals - Francis Lang and his Mules

9. Further Links & Information

Visit us at the Archive

Visit us at the Museum

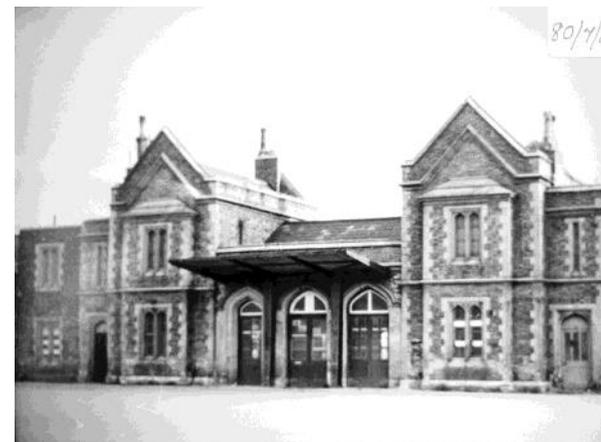
Introduction

During the First World War a tea room (sometimes also referred to as a 'Rest Room' or 'Soldiers Rest') at Peterborough East Railway Station provided an alternative non-alcoholic drink to servicemen travelling through the city. The tea room was run by women from the Women's United Total Abstinence Council (WUTAC). Patrons of the tea room were invited to sign their name in a visitor's book, two of which survive from 1916 and 1917. The books record sailors, soldiers and civilians who were travelling to and from the front, training camps, hospitals or going on leave. The men came from all over the United Kingdom and other countries too.

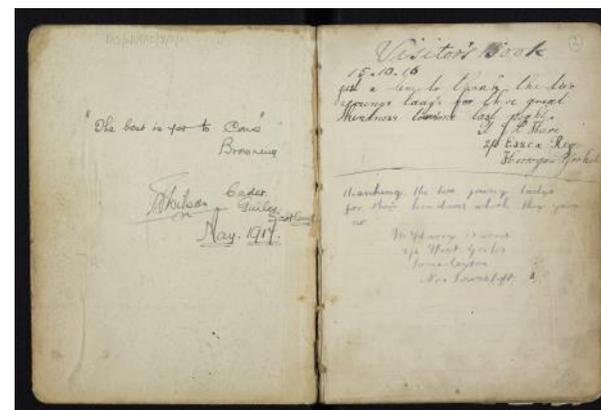
The surviving books, held by Peterborough Archives, are an extraordinary record of a wide variety of servicemen and civilians who were passing through Peterborough at that time.

The books have been digitised and transcribed as an on-line resource and can be viewed at: www.peterboroughww1.co.uk

This teachers' resource pack has been designed to complement the digital books and to support the KS2+3 curriculum. You will find a selection of cross curricular activities within the related sources supporting the development of key skills and other useful resources to complement your work in the classroom. Using primary source materials and analysing the information is a key skill and theme in the history curriculum. The digital guestbook and this accompanying teachers' resource pack tackles this global, impactful historical event with the practical understanding of how it relates to the local area.



G.E.R. Station, Peterborough, From Peterborough Archives & Local Studies (80/7/23)



WUTAC Visitors' Book, From Peterborough Archives & Local Studies (PAS/WUTAC/1/1/1, Page 1)

The Visitors' Books

The Visitors' Books

The two surviving visitors' books are at the heart of the Peterborough & The Great War project and of this teachers' resource pack.

The books contain messages of gratitude, poems and sketches which provide a brief insight into the servicemen's feelings during one of the most significant events in world history. A vast range of source material relating to the women who ran the tearoom and whose idea it was to record the visitors in the first place, provides further information about WUTAC, the home-front and social attitudes during the Great War.

The visitors' books are a valuable primary source, and an ideal springboard for other research, for student investigations into The Great War.

Classes are able to get view the original visitors' books and many related sources at Vivacity Archives, located in Vivacity Central Library, Peterborough.

Please see the 'Visit' section for more details.

The Digital Visitors' Books

Themes 1: Food

Theme 2: Women

Theme 3: Prisoners of War

Theme 4: Countries

Theme 5: Railways

Theme 6: Friendship & Family

Theme 7: Animals



Prior to commencing the activities, it is recommended that teachers show students the digital visitors' books. These are available via the following link:

www.peterboroughww1.co.uk

Some tasks require students to access the servicemen's biographies and other information, these are included as 'website tasks'.

The related sources link with each theme and the suggested questions are designed as a springboard for research and discussion.

Take time to look through the digital book in order to familiarise yourself with the features, functions and content!

Some of the sections include images of relevant entries from the books, transcriptions are included, however higher resolution viewing is possible online.

How to use the supporting resources/related sources

How to use the related sources

The sources alongside the seven themes aim to complement the digital book which is available online:

<http://www.peterboroughww1.co.uk>

These sources include both primary and secondary sources. (For more information on sources look at the 'further links page')

Census Records

The 1911 Census is considered to be one of the most important sources of information. It records where people lived, their place of birth, age and occupation at the time of the Census. Unlike earlier Census' it also notes nationality, length of marriage, the number of children born within a marriage and lists the children who survived and died. It records information relating to members of the forces serving overseas. The handwriting on the Census is the original handwriting of the person completing the Census, rather than that of an official.

These records are a wonderful comparative tool. Students could complete their own Census to see how their information differs from the 1911 Census. Students could use the census information to gain an understanding of

records and what we can learn from them. This activity lends itself well for drama activities, with students taking the role of family members.

Newspaper Reports

The newspaper reports contain a variety of articles, adverts and photographs which provide a broad range of subject matter. The information appeared in the newspapers around the time the servicemen included in the visitors' books were passing through Peterborough. The information will provide a broader perspective regarding the impact of war on the home-front and the front line. Older students might want to discuss aspects of propaganda and gender issues in relation to advertising. Art students could create their own 'dream'-like the one included in the P.O.W theme-of what they would miss if they were away from home and consider the symbolism of the items. The use of measurements in the Food section makes an excellent starting point for some interesting maths activities and making comparisons with modern day measurements.

Memorial Photographs

These sources link well with PSHE and RE, the students can think about the people and families associated with the people in the pictures and perhaps visit a local memorial. This could relate to stories featured in the resource which includes, Thomas Hunter, who is buried in Broadway Cemetery or John Bonshor who is commemorated in Peterborough Cathedral. Jimmy the donkey's grave is in Central Park. Students could also consider what impact being buried or commemorated overseas may have on a family.

Related materials

There are a number of other documents included which support the activities such as, invoices, receipts, portraits, photographs, military records, letters, maps and excerpts from the visitors' books.