

## Railways



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

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## Railways during WW1

**“My name is Alf Davis, I will be guiding you through the theme of Railways during WW1:**

Railways were an integral transport network during the WW1, allowing movement of people and goods. Carriages were sometimes even used as ambulances/hospitals and travelling post offices. Every signature in the visitors' books, including both of mine, were written during time spent at the Peterborough East Station tea room, travelling through the city on the Great Eastern Railway Line. Although the East Station was demolished in the 1970s, the stations legacy lives on within these books.”



*Portrait of Alf Davis, From Marjorie Davis*

### Related Themes:

Transport, Work, Friendship, Injuries, Medals, Geography.

### SOURCES:

Using the sources provided on the following pages you can conduct your own research on the theme of Railways during WW1.

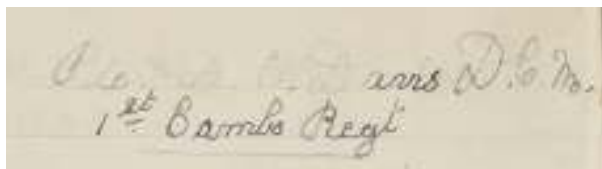
For some questions you may want to look at the website: [www.peterboroughww1.co.uk](http://www.peterboroughww1.co.uk)



## Railways during WW1



Portrait of Alf Davis, From Marjorie Davis



WUTAC visitors' book, From Peterborough Archives & Local Studies  
(PAS/WUTAC/1/1/1, Page 27)

Pte. A. E. Davis D.C.M  
1st Cambs Regt

*Transcription of the extract*



WUTAC visitors' book, From Peterborough Archives & Local Studies  
(PAS/WUTAC/1/1/1, Page 50)

Mr A. E. Davis D.C.M  
Late of Cambridgeshire Regt  
Sailed for France Feb 14 1915  
Wounded at Hill 60 May 5 1915  
Left Leg amputated May 1915  
Awarded D.C.M. January 14 1916 for  
Conspicuous Gallantry Stretcher Bearing  
On April 14 1915 at Ypres  
Decorated by Captain Ollard at Cambridge  
May 6 1916

*Transcription of the extract*

### SOURCES:

The sources on this page relate to Alf Davis. they include:

1. A Photograph
2. His entry from the visitors' book
3. His second entry from the visitors' book

### QUESTIONS:

- Why did Alf Davis sign the book twice?
- What is the DCM and why would he have been awarded it?
- How do you think he felt during his second visit to the WUTAC tearoom? What had changed since his last visit?

### WEBSITE TASK:

- Go to the website and search for Alf Davis and read his biography.
- What tragic incident happened before Alf sailed for France?

## Railways during WW1

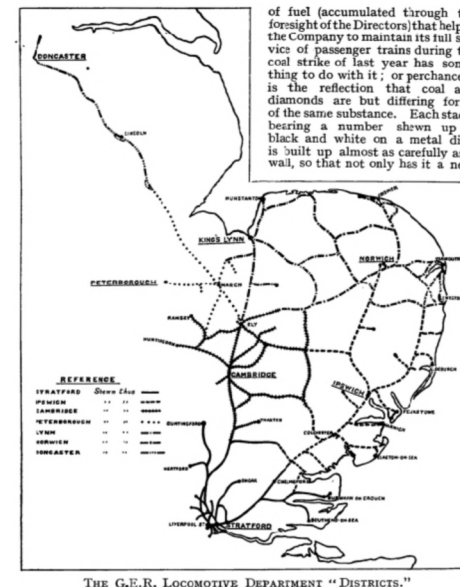


**MR. ELLIS.**  
*Station Master,  
Peterborough.*

Portrait of Mr Ellis, From *The Great Eastern Magazine*, December 1913



Invoice, From Peterborough Archives & Local Studies (PAS/WUTAC/2/4/4/36)



Map, From *The Great Eastern Magazine*, May 1913

### SOURCES:

The sources on this page relate to Station Master Ellis, they include:

1. A Photograph
2. An Invoice
3. A Map

### QUESTIONS:

- What do you think the role of a station master is?
- Look at the invoice, why would they have needed coal? (Remember this is for the tea room not the station in general!)
- Which route might soldiers coming back from overseas have travelled on to pass through Peterborough?

### WEBSITE TASK:

- Go on the 'Discover More' section of the website and read the article about The History of Peterborough East Station.
- What do you think GN and GE stand for?
- If you were a civilian trying to travel by train in wartime, what problems might you encounter?