

FEAR GOD AND HONOUR THE KING



*The Vicomte, RR Lemprière, reading the Declaration of War
in the Royal Square, 4 August 1914.*

The Channel Islands and the Great War

by

Doug Ford

"... Do your duty bravely, fear God and honour the King."

Kitchener, Field Marshall

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1 THE EDWARDIAN SUMMER

The two decades before the Great War saw the last flowering of an era of elegance and privilege. It was an age of great certainties, of confidence and continuity. It was the culmination of the 19th century - of its system of government and its way of life. Those members of the middle and upper classes who lived through the war looked back at it nostalgically as the golden age; for after four years of warfare, the parasols, carriages and plumes had disappeared forever.

Tourism in the islands

To cater for the annual influx of summer tourists a number of shows and concert parties such as the Gaeties and the White Coons were brought to the islands. In Jersey performances were given in the Triangle Park on fine days and in the "Tin Hut" at West Park if it was wet. In 1912 a young Charles Chaplin appeared in Fred Karno's Company at both the Opera House and the Battle of flowers. In 1913 Marie Lloyd was the star.

In the summer of 1914 the tourists began to arrive as usual to take the sea air, see the sites and sit on the beaches.

In 1912 the world's first international air race took place on a circular

course between St Malo and Jersey. The event was won by an American, Charles Weymann, at an average speed of just below 60 mph.

Garrison Life in 1914

The Channel islands were the only part of the British Empire in which there was compulsory Militia Service.

In Jersey in 1914 the Military Establishment on the island was headed by the Lieutenant Governor, Major-General Sir A.N. Rochfort, KCB, CMG assisted by a staff of permanent officers.

The garrison was made up of a variety of units:-

- The Royal Engineer Department commanded by Captain J.G. Fleming, RE;
- The Army Ordinance Department commanded by Captain L.W.R. Hill of the Royal Fusiliers;
- The Army Service Corps commanded by Captain J.H. Morris;
- The Medical Staff commanded by Lieutenant Colonel P.C. Gordon, R.A.M.C.; and,
- The 20th Company of the Royal Garrison Artillery based at Elizabeth Castle commanded by Major FM Davidson.

The garrison regiment in Jersey was the 1st battalion of the Devonshire Regiment commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir GM Bullock, KCB. They were based in Fort Regent and St Peter's Barracks.

Following the Militia Act of January 1906 all males between 16 and 45 were obliged to serve in the Royal Jersey Militia. Between 16 and 18 there was up to 40 days of compulsory drills. The active militia consisted of 1,800 men excluding commissioned officers and of these 1,000 underwent compulsory annual training for 9 consecutive working days in camp and 8 non-consecutive days training. While at annual camp the men were paid by the States. Having completed a term in the militia men under 35 were placed in the 1st Reserve which trained 4 days per year and between the ages of 35 and 45 they served in the 2nd reserve which trained for two days per year.

The Royal Jersey Militia was made up of a regiment of artillery, an infantry regiment of three battalions, a company of Engineers and a Medical Company.

The Royal Guernsey Militia was made up of a regiment of artillery and engineers, an infantry regiment made up of two battalions, and a Medical Corps.

In Alderney the Royal Alderney Artillery and Engineers, commanded

by Colonel W. Grant de Jersey, supplemented the regular army garrison. Young men had to report for service with the militia at the age of 16. Most volunteered otherwise there was a ballot. The authorities would say that there was a need for so many men for the artillery and so many for the engineers.

New recruits trained for 21 days at Fort Tourgis before the old hands or "effectives" were called up for 11 days and the recruits trained with them after which they were also classed as "effectives". Thereafter, training was 11 days a year for 9 years and then the "effectives" joined the reserves until they were 45 years old. 2½ days of training a year were set aside for rifle and artillery practice.

Kit and rifles were stored in the Militia Arsenal in Ollivier Street. A Battery of field guns was kept in the sheds at the Butes Arsenal. Farm horses were used to pull the guns into position covering the Mannez end of the island.

2 The Outbreak of War

The Lieutenant Governors in both Jersey and Guernsey called out the island militias on a peace footing on 30 July and advised reservists to await orders to re-join their units. On receiving these orders all units of the Royal Jersey Militia paraded fully equipped at their respective rendezvous points for an anti-invasion exercise. These exercises continued until the demobilisation of the Militia on 23 February 1917.

THE WAR
Germany Opens the Conflict
Treaty Obligations Violated
Luxembourg Occupied
The German Troops on French Soil
LIBAU BOMBED
The British Empire United
England's Financial Precautions

(Evening Post, 3 August 1914)

Mobilisation of French residents

On Saturday, 1 August news was received in the island that a general mobilisation had been ordered in France. Mons. Jouve, Consul de France, displayed a notice to this effect in the French Consulate in Church Street, St Helier and asked the Evening Post and St Helier Town Hall to do the same. Announcements were made in the various French Roman Catholic churches and parish officials notified French reservists in the country parishes. The result was that

the Consulate was besieged by French residents arranging their papers. The first reservists had left on the SS Laura for Granville by noon of Sunday, 2 August.

"As the Laura Sailed from the pier yesterday, for instance, an old widowed mother stood on the quay in tears as she saw her only son leaving the Island, and yet she seemed to be consoled by the fact that their patriotism knew no bounds."

Evening Post, Monday, 3 August 1914

By the end of 1914 approximately 2,000 French residents had returned to their Reserve Regiments from Jersey and a further 300 from Guernsey.

"How the Hotels are Affected"

"Many of the hotels are very badly hit by the French mobilisation order. In one instance the chef has already left the Island, and the remainder of the staff are due to leave during the week. Practically all the German waiters have gone. The position in which proprietors of such establishments are placed is indeed awkward."

Evening Post, Monday, 3 August 1914

In common with the rest of the British Isles there was a rash of spy scares in August and September 1914. In Guernsey, the tenant of Herm, Prince Blucher, was arrested and interned despite his opposition to German policies and the fact that his two sons

were officers in the Royal Guernsey Militia.

Banks Close

Monday, 3 August was a bank holiday but in order to prevent a "run", local banks remained closed until Friday 7 August. This prevented people exchanging their paper money for gold.

Alderney

At the outbreak of war in August 1914 rockets were fired from Fort Albert as a signal to the regulars to report back to the barracks. The militiamen were summoned by the ringing of the church bells. Militia reservists were also mobilised.

Militia gunners took over the manning of the two 12 pounders and two 6 inch guns at the Cavalier Battery in Fort Albert from the 17th company of the Royal Garrison Artillery. The militia Engineers took over from the regular Royal Engineers at Grosnez.

Regular troops withdrawn - duties taken on by militia

Obviously if a war was to be fought, regular troops could not be spared for garrison duty and so, in Jersey, the 1st Bttn of the Devonshire Regiment was replaced by a special reserve unit, the 4th Bttn of the South Staffordshire Regiment.

In addition to this, the Militia was put on stand-by and coast guard duties. The island Militias eventually took

over the responsibility for the defence of their islands. By ancient right islanders could not be drafted for overseas service, however, many islanders enlisted in the regular forces.

In Alderney the militiamen received 14/- a week and every other day they were allowed to work on their farms or in the quarries. This meant that there was always half the militia on duty. Militiamen could be released to serve on the granite carriers which were transporting thousands of tons of stone to France to be used on the military roads. A coal dump was set up by the Harbour House at Le Braye to bunker these ships.

The regular troops stationed on the island were generally a "garrison" battalion or a Defence Corps of Low Medical Grade. The exception to this rule was the 4 Bttn North Staffordshire Regiment who were stationed on the island from August 1914 until September 1916. This regiment served as an officer-training unit.

3 "Your Country needs you!"

On 6 August 1914 Field Marshall Kitchener, the hero of Khartoum, issued a call to arms in which he appealed for another 100,000 men to join the ranks for a period of three years or until the conclusion of the war.

In the course of the Great War about 3,300 Jerseymen volunteered and a further 3,000 were conscripted under the Compulsory Military Service Act after February 1917.

In December 1914 about 300 Jersey militiamen joined a volunteer Overseas Contingent which was incorporated into the 7th Bttn of the Royal Irish Rifles in February 1915.

The bailiwick of Guernsey provided over 7,000 volunteers and conscripts.

A volunteer company of Guernsey militiamen went to the 6th Bttn of the Royal Irish Regiment where they formed C Company and another volunteer company formed D Company of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. The first contingent left Guernsey in March 1915 for training in Ireland.

Prisoners of War

In the event of a soldier being captured while at the Front their families could obtain information about them from the Prisoners of War

Information Bureau, 49 Wellington Street, Strand, London.

13 November 1916 - Sergeant J.E. Rondel R.A.M.C. of Jersey, a prisoner of war at Ohrdruf, Germany, was awarded the D.C.M. for his heroic care of his comrades during a typhus and cholera epidemic.

4 Home Service

The Militia in Jersey

On 4 August 1914 this notice appeared in the Evening Post,

MOBILISATION OF THE ARMY

"We are officially informed that orders have been received in the island to mobilise, and the Active of the R.M.I.J are to be called out tomorrow at 2pm to take over the duties of protecting the coasts tomorrow night.

They will assemble at their respective points of assembly.

The notice calling out the Militia Reserves will shortly be issued after the King's Order-in-Council has been registered by the Court"

By December 1916 the threat of invasion had receded and the British Conscription Act was introduced into the island. The island militia was demobilised and those men considered unfit or too old for active service in France were formed into the Royal Jersey Garrison Battalion in February 1917. The battalion was consisted of two companies, each with four platoons, and had a total strength of just under 480 men.

Prisoner of War camp - Blanches Banques

In August 1914 the War Office ordered the immediate construction of a temporary prisoner of war camp in

Jersey. By September the Royal Engineers converted the grounds of the Royal Jersey Horticultural and Agricultural Society at Springfield. It was never used for its original purpose; instead, it housed the 4th Bttn of the South Staffordshire Regiment before it became the Army Service Corps Supply Depot.

In December 1914 the War Office ordered the building of a permanent camp to house 1,000 prisoners of war.

The site chosen, Blanches Banques, Les Quennevais, was already owned by the War Office. The compound, surrounded by a barbed wire fence ten feet high, was about 300 yards square with the guard buildings on the outside.

The first party of prisoners arrived on 20 March 1915 and by July there were 1,500 inmates in the camp. The camp was finally closed in October 1919. In the four and a half years it was open there were a number of escape attempts including two by tunnels.

The Militia in Guernsey

When war was declared the total strength of the Royal Guernsey Militia, including reservists, was about 2,000.

Field fortifications were built at various points around the coast to prevent an enemy landing. On 24

August the States of Guernsey voted £10,000 for the maintenance of the militia. As with Jersey the militia was demobilised with the introduction of the British Conscription Act.

5 The Civilian at War

Court Martial at The Grand Hotel

On 31 December 1914 the Grand Hotel, Jersey, was the scene of a civilian court martial. Edwin Single, a baker's deliveryman, was charged with spreading false reports in contravention of the 1914 Defence of the Realm Regulations. Evidence was heard that he had caused alarm in the parish of St Peter by telling people that 150,000 Germans had occupied Calais. He stated that a notice to this effect was on display in the windows of the Evening Post offices in St Helier.

Single was sentenced to fourteen days imprisonment, which was commuted by the Lieutenant Governor.

The War Effort - Red Cross Work

A Ladies Working Guild was formed at Grouville on 17 August 1914 for the relief of the wounded and those rendered destitute by the War. The first collection raised £17 10s.

In Alderney the island school was converted into a hospital and pupils attended lessons in the Island Hall.

On 10 August 1914 notice was given suspending the Law on Primary Instruction which allowed to children over Standard II could work to alleviate the scarcity of labour.

Money was raised to help the war effort in many ways; one of the most popular was the "Flag" day. Anyone who gave money for the cause was given a small flag: originally, these were made of silk.

On 21 May 1916 British summertime was introduced; the aim of this "daylight saving" exercise was to help the farmers.

Women in a Man's World

With so many men leaving the islands to go to the Front many women found themselves doing what had traditionally been seen as men's work.

In Jersey a meeting held in the Town Hall, St Helier on 11 August 1914 voted that to enable women to return to work a crèche should be set up. This looked after those children aged 4 years and under between 7am and 7pm while their mothers were at work. Children aged between four and eight could be looked after and fed when they were not at school. It was organised by the Ladies of Beaulieu in their Convent on Wellington Hill in St Helier.

Women were to be found in offices, shops, factories and fields throughout the British Isles and it has been estimated that over 1.25 million joined the paid workforce. On 20 April 1916 the Jersey Post Office were affected

so much by the shortage of manpower that the women took over the delivery of the mail.

Women no longer had the time to look after their long hair and so there was a trend towards more hygienic, shorter and simpler hairstyles. The war also saw a general easing in the constraints upon dress, behaviour and use of leisure time. For the first time many women had money to indulge themselves with luxuries which provided a welcome relief to their unglamorous roles. The use of cosmetics increased dramatically during the war.

6 Islanders at war

The Jersey Overseas Contingent

On 2 March 1915 the 6 officers and 224 NCOs and men of the Jersey Overseas Contingent left the island to join their regiment in Ireland. Another 73 men followed on later.

In December 1915 the Jersey Overseas Contingent was posted to France where they took part in the battles on the Somme. From 27 December 1915 until 26 August 1916 they were at Loos Hollock. 1 September they were at Albert and suffered heavy casualties at Guilleumont before they fought in the capture of Ginchy on 9 September 1916. At the end of the month they were moved to Belgium and took part in the 3rd battle of Ypres at the end of July 1917. After four days they were withdrawn from the front due to heavy casualties.

The 7th Bttn of the Royal Irish Rifles had been so badly mauled at Ypres that they were disbanded and were amalgamated with the regiment's 2nd Bttn. In November 1917 they fought at Cambrai in the same action as the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry who were to suffer heavy casualties. What remained of the Jersey Overseas Contingent after Cambrai was

ordered to join the 2nd Bttn of the Hampshire Regiment. Only a few Jersey men served in the Overseas

Contingent, most served in various regiments.

Of the 212 decorations won by islanders, two were Victoria Crosses: Lt W.A. McCrae-Bruce, VC & Capt. A.M.C. McReady-Diarmid, VC

"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. On 19 December 1914, near Givenchy, during a night attack, Lieut. Bruce was in command of a small party which captured one of the enemy trenches.

In spite of being severely wounded in the neck, he walked up and down the trench encouraging his men to hold on against several counter-attacks for some hours until killed. The fire from rifles and bombs was very heavy all day, and it was due to the skilful disposition made and the example and encouragement shown by Lieut. Bruce that his men were able to hold out until dusk, when the trench was finally captured by the enemy."

London Gazette, 4 September 1919

The Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, (RGLI)

Honours: Ypres 1917, Passchendaele, Cambrai 1917, Lys, Estaires, Hazebrouck - France and Flanders 1917-1918

In December 1916 the States of Guernsey offered the British Government the services of an infantry battalion for the duration of the war and at the same time allowed the British Conscription Act to come into effect in the bailiwick. This meant that for the first time in nine centuries a force of Guernseymen, as opposed to individual islanders, was to fight overseas. The Royal Guernsey Militia was suspended and the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry, which included men from Alderney and Sark, was formed with two battalions - the 1st (service) Battalion and the 2nd (reserve) Battalion. It was the second and last new regiment to be added to the British army during the Great War, the other was the Welsh Guards who were formed in 1915.

The 1st Bttn of the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry left the island in June 1917 for further training in England before being posted to France on 27 September 1917 where they were joined by a number of fellow islanders who had served in the volunteer companies.

On 20 November 1917 the battalion advanced with the tanks in the Battle

of Cambrai. They achieved their objective of Bois des Neuf with few casualties.

The German counter-attack on 30 November/1 December saw a beleaguered RGLI holding the brigade's right flank centred around the villages of Mesnieres and Rues Vertes. The mound of rubble that had been the village of Rues Vertes changed hands three times at the point of a bayonet. After two days of heavy hand-to-hand fighting they were ordered to withdraw to Marcoing. The RGLI had suffered heavily - 156 men were listed simply as missing. The 2nd Reserve Battalion was unable to provide the replacements needed, and so the battalion was brought back up to strength with drafts from British units. The commander of the 29th Division, General Sir Beauvoir de Lisle, wrote to the Bailiff of Guernsey commending the fighting qualities of the RGLI. *"...Guernsey has every reason to feel the greatest pride in her sons and I am proud to have them under me, fighting alongside my staunch veterans of three years fighting experience. Many officers and men greatly distinguished themselves..."*

The insular nature of the Regiment was never to be as strong again. The battalion was moved to a "quiet" sector of Paschendale where they

again suffered heavy casualties and losses were made up with more British units and the remnants of the Guernsey Volunteer Company of the disbanded 6th Bttn Royal Irish Regiment.

In April 1918 the RGLI was part of the reserve division which was used to try to plug a gap in the Allied lines caused by the German advance of the Ludendorff Offensive. The Battle of Lys lasted four days and the RGLI once more fought a fighting withdrawal. Forty-eight hours later they were five miles from where they had started. Of the 20 officers and 483 men who had started out on 12 April, when they were relieved by an Australian battalion on 14 April there were only 3 officers and 55 men left. A further 47 men managed to fight their way back to rejoin the battalion. The Regiment could no longer be made up to strength and so it was withdrawn from the Front and were employed as guard troops at Field Marshall Haig's Headquarters where they remained till the end of the war.

In April 1919 the remnants of the Service Battalion of the RGLI returned to Guernsey. Of the 3549 men who had served in the RGLI 2,430 were islanders and 1,119 were from the United Kingdom. 2,280 served in France of whom 230 were killed in action, 67 died of wounds and 30 died of disease. 667 were wounded and 255 were taken prisoner.

7 In the Sea and in the Air

Within days of war being declared there was naval activity around the islands in the Channel.

6 August 1914: a French gunboat captured a German steamer off Sark.

18 August 1914; the French gunboat Pluton captured an Austrian cargo steamer off the Casquets.

24 August 1914: French cruisers captured the Dutch steamer SS Orange Nansan with a number of German reservists on board.

However, one of the features of the Great War was the introduction of two new instruments of terror - the submarine and the aeroplane. Recognising the threat from aerial bombardment the War Department issued the militia with Airship recognition cards. On 22 July 1916 Guernsey had its first aerial "visitor", a dirigible airship. While its visit was kept secret in Guernsey, the Evening Post in Jersey published all the details.

A detachment of the South Staffordshire Regiment was stationed on Herm to prevent the landing of spies and saboteurs by submarine.

The Germans were the first to recognise the potential of the submarine and their U-Boat fleet was

a real threat to Allied shipping. In 1916 German U-boats were spotted in

local waters. To counter this threat, the French Government established a sea plane station off Castle Cornet in Guernsey in May 1917. The Model Yacht Pond was drained to serve as a hangar. Patrolling in pairs between the Channel Islands and Treguier, messages were sent back by carrier pigeon until the planes were fitted with radios. Altogether about 110 men of the Aviation Maritime Francaise were stationed in the island to service or fly the variety of bi-planes and tri-planes. Most had a single boat shaped float and were armed with two 56lb bombs and a machine gun. One Legion d'Honneur and several Croix de Guerre were awarded to individual French aviators from the Guernsey Station.

- 31 January 1918 a U-boat was sunk by two seaplanes south of Hanois.
- 23 April 1918 a U-boat was attacked off St Martin's Point.
- 31 May 1918 a U-boat was sunk 30 miles west of Guernsey while it was shelling the sailing ship "*Dundee*".

French torpedo boats from the Guernsey Station were awarded the Croix de Guerre in the Autumn of 1918

in recognition of 25 attacks upon submarines and the discovery of three minefields between August 1917 and August 1918.

Altogether 179 Jerseymen served in the Royal Flying Corps or the Royal Naval Air Service of whom 8 died.

One of these was Flight Lieutenant Stanley Mossop DSO. On 10 August 1918, mooring his Wight's seaplane in St Helier Harbour, he paid an unofficial visit to his parents' home in Commercial Buildings. Two days later the 19-year-old Jerseyman crashed to his death in Port-en-Bessin harbour near Bayeux while trying to land with a damaged tailplane.

8 The Armistice and Remembrance

Jersey

"At 11 o'clock this morning news was received in the island of the signing of the Armistice. Great public rejoicing took place, and the day was observed as a general holiday. The streets of the town and public buildings were decorated with flags also the shipping in the harbour, sirens and steam whistles were blown, and rockets and guns fired. At 4.30pm, an impromptu Thanksgiving Service, attended by hundreds of people took place in the Royal Square."

The Cenotaphs

Each parish honoured their dead by erecting war memorials and many churches honoured their dead congregation in the same way.

In August 1919 the States of Jersey decided to honour the dead of the whole island by erecting a "temporary" cenotaph made of wood and canvas. This was replaced by a more permanent structure in the Parade made of La Moye granite which was unveiled on Armistice Day 1923.

In Guernsey the first memorials or War shrines were erected during the Great War. The first, by Dalgairns Road and Rosaire Avenue, was unveiled on 3 December 1916 for St

Stephen's parish. This was later moved to St Stephen's Churchyard.

The second was erected on the corner of High Street and Smith Street and was unveiled on 4 January 1917.

9 The Roll of Honour

Jersey

Altogether 6,292 islanders served in the British Armed Forces. Of these 862 (126 from Victoria College) died in the service of their King. A further 2,300 French residents from the island served in the French Forces.

570 were killed in action, 181 died of disease and 111 died of wounds.

	Officers	Other ranks	Total
Royal Navy	17	104	121
Army & RFC	87	551	638
Colonial Forces	6	97	103
	110	752	862

The British government awarded 212 decorations to military personnel from the island.

In the course of the war, Jersey contributed £100,000 to the war effort. In 1923 the British Government asked Jersey for a yearly contribution of £275,000 towards the cost of running the Empire. This was refused and in its place the States offered a once only contribution of £300,000 towards the cost of the Great War which was duly paid in 1927. In addition to this Jersey raised about £60,000 for the various War Charities.

Guernsey

Accurate records for the Bailiwick of Guernsey have not been compiled. It has been estimated that over 7,000 served their King in the various services, 4,915 in the various army regiments. The island suffered 910 killed, 108 from Elizabeth College. During the course of the Great War Guernsey's War contribution was £100,000. In 1927 a further £220,000 was given to the British Government towards the cost of the War.

Postscript

In October and November 1918 the Spanish Influenza which had swept over Europe hit the islands leaving over 300 dead in Jersey.

10 The Brave New World: Changes in society 1910-25

The servicemen who returned home having paid the terrible price of victory were sickened by war and were hoping for a new and better life. There was to be no return to a pre-war style of society. After four years of austerity and grief there was a period of almost devil-may-care gaiety.

The proprieties, which had governed the lives of society before the war, had vanished. The cinema was a new influence in society. The local "picture palace" meant that everybody had access to a new world of glamour. Old taboos on what women should see, hear and know disappeared, well-bred women talked on any subjects they chose - including sex. The war had had a liberating effect on women who were now vying for the attention of the returning soldiers for because of the carnage at the Front there was a shortage of young men. No longer willing to be heavily corseted, women wore short skirts, sometimes even trousers or the daring one-piece bathing suit and cropped their hair. Young women modelled themselves on the new "movie stars", such as Pola Negri, Theda Bara or Clara Bow with her flat chest, shingled hair, lipstick and cigarettes - the flapper had arrived.

The war and the inflation that followed saw a decline in the number of large

households with servants. The shortage of men led to an increase in the types of peacetime jobs available to women in offices, restaurants and shops.

In July 1919 the States of Jersey granted the vote to women over the age of 30. They were able to exercise this right in 1920 when there was an election for Jurats. In April 1924 women over the age of 30 were eligible to stand in the Deputies elections. In April 1925 the States of Jersey passed the Married Women's Property Act which meant that a woman's property remained her own after she got married.

In 1920 Guernsey, in theory, introduced universal suffrage although non-ratepayers had to make a special application.

During the war trades unions had grown in importance throughout the British Isles and this continued after the armies were demobilised. In Jersey labour relations in the early 1920s were marred by industrial unrest. On 20 March 1920 store hands went on strike which lasted over five weeks, special constables were sworn in. On 1 May 1921 over 2,000 workers attended a Labour Day rally in the West Park Pavillion which was addressed by the Dean. Between

October and December 1921 there was a strike of building workers and they were joined by the employees of the Jersey Gas Light Company.

In Guernsey an Island Police Force of one inspector, two corporals and twenty-three constables had been set up for the duration of the war. In 1919 the States decided to carry on with this force on a more permanent basis and it assumed all the police duties formally carried out by the parish constables.

In October 1925 a group of ex-Royal Air Force personnel living in Jersey formed the first branch of the Royal Air Forces Association.

PARDON!

"None of us will live to see the end of the war".

Lord Northcliffe, September 1918

"The machine gun is a much overrated weapon and two per battalion is more than sufficient."

General Sir Douglas Haig

"Take Kitchener's maximum; square it, multiply that result by two - and when you are in sight of that, double it again for good luck."

Lloyd George

Over 500,000 men answered Kitchener's "Call to Arms".

At the Battle of the Somme in 1916 there was one piece of artillery for every 16 yards of the Front. In early 1917 this had been increased to one piece of artillery for every 7 yards at Messines Ridge.