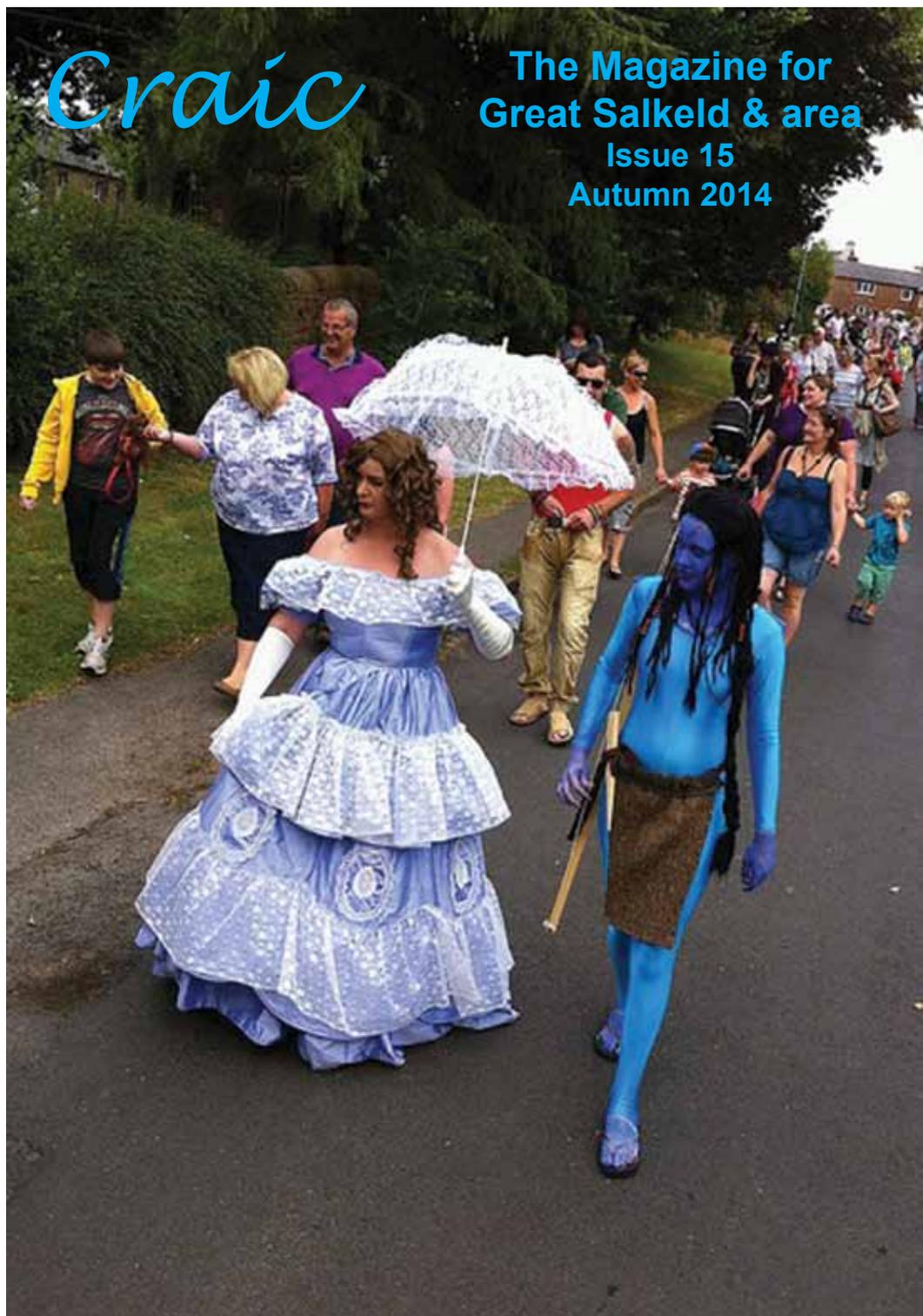


*Craic*

The Magazine for  
Great Salkeld & area  
Issue 15  
Autumn 2014



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Dear all,

Editorial

I am pleased to inform you that Donald MacLennan has joined us as Co-Editor. I am sure that with his wealth of news gathering experience, he will bring a new phase to Craic.

What events have unfolded this year to date, with The World Cup, Tour of Yorkshire and the Commonwealth Games, and our own Sports and Gala event, which was very successful, thanks to the organising effort made by the Committee members, and all who took part. (See the photos in this issue).

However it's now time to leave our sporting mode and return to our normal tasks that we have been putting off, such as tidying up the garden shed and the overgrown borders.

With Craic, we are entering our 1st World War conclusion by covering the Senior Service on how they prevented our enemies from blockading British food supplies by the introduction of the convoy system.

Timber was also much in demand for the War needs, so much so that Britain not only had to manage their own forests but had to rely on Canadian lumberjacks to harvest timber in France; articles covering both of these essential tasks appear in this issue, which make interesting reading.

Regards to you all.

Frank Hope, Editor

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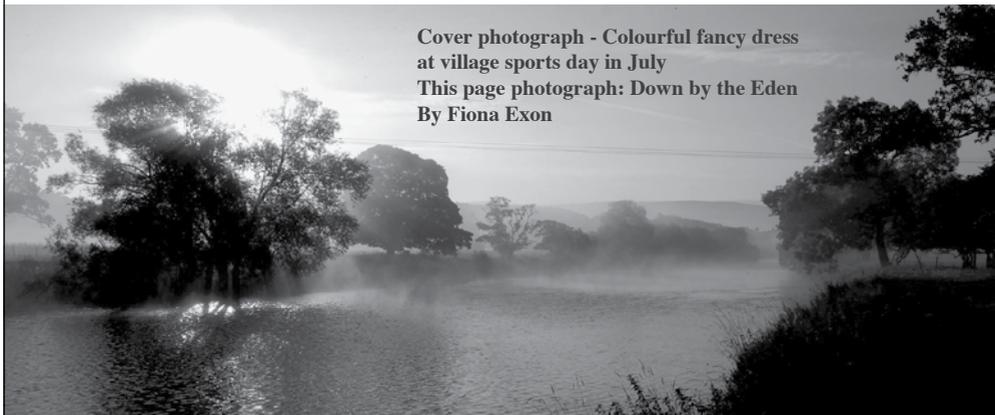
**CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Please send your news to [copy@great-salkeld.net](mailto:copy@great-salkeld.net). We welcome Readers' Views on articles which are published and invite our readers to suggest topics for inclusion in future issues. News and Events are also included on the Village Website: [www.great-salkeld.net](http://www.great-salkeld.net) The website contains the Diary of Village Events, which is frequently updated. Email Linda Jervis on [diary@great-salkeld.net](mailto:diary@great-salkeld.net) for diary inclusion. We won't always have space to include every article or item in the current Craic; some items will be held over to subsequent issues, while some items will go onto the village website.

**ADVERTISE in CRAIC**

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Cover photograph - Colourful fancy dress at village sports day in July  
This page photograph: Down by the Eden  
By Fiona Exon



## Feeding Tommy - extract from an article in the Telegraph



Andrew Robertshaw is Curator at the Royal Logistic Corps Museum. He produced a guide to the food eaten by British soldiers of the First World War, complete with recipes for some of the meals.

Although there was no rat-au-van, there were some now largely forgotten dishes, such as beef tea, mutton broth, brawn, potato pie and duff pudding. But Mr Robertshaw also shows how some modern favourites, such as egg and chips, and curry were popularised by the conflict. The research, contained in a new book “Feeding Tommy”, involved an

investigation of the archives of the RLC – the successor to the Army Service Corps, whose job it was to feed the men – as well as study of memoirs from serving soldiers.

By the end of the war, the ration strength of the British Army was 5,363,352 people worldwide, including 2,360,400 on the Western Front alone. To feed all these men, the ASC had expanded to a strength of 12,000

***“Soldiers will always grumble about food, but the feeding of the army was actually a stunning logistical achievement. The men might have occasionally missed a meal, or not enjoyed one particularly, or got a bit bored, but the range and nutritional value of what they ate was actually remarkably good.”***



officers and 320,000 men – the size of the entire British Army sent to the Continent at the outbreak of war. The food offered by the army was far superior to what many were used to at home.

While a working class family of two adults and at least one child in Britain would eat 3lb 6oz of beef or mutton a week, along with 19lb 8oz of bread

and just over 25lb of potatoes between them, each soldier would receive 8lb 12oz and the same weight in bread. He also had 11lb 5oz of bacon and 3lb 8oz of vegetables. And the men were also paid in local currency

and were able to buy additional food when not in action – an option not available to many of those at home, who simply went hungry.

It meant soldiers ate an estimated 4,600 calories a

day, compared with a working man’s 3,400 a day at home.

As the conflict progressed, food was prepared nearer and nearer to the front lines and many cooks were killed.

All men received the same rations, and the ranks were always fed before the officers, although where applicable, the horses always had to eat before either.

# Meals that were Feeding Tommy

## Some recipes that Andrew Robertshaw discovered:

### BROWN STEW

**Ingredients:** meat, onions, flour, mixed vegetables, pepper, salt, stock

- Bone meat, remove fat, cut into 1oz pieces.
- Place 3lb flour, ½oz pepper, ½oz salt in a bowl and mix
- Place stock into bottom of cooking vessel and dredge meat in flour
- Peel and cut up onions, wash and peel and cut up the mixed vegetables, add onions and vegetables to meat, mix well together and barely cover with stock and place in over to cook
- Stir frequently
- Time 2½ to 3 hours



### POTATO PIE

**Ingredients:** meat, potatoes, onions, pepper, salt, stock

- Wash, peel, rewash potatoes, cut large ones into halves lengthways
- Bone meat cutting away fat, if meat is lean cover with slices of fat
- Place potatoes in tin dish, peel and cut up onions and sprinkle over the potatoes; add 1½oz pepper and 3oz of salt then pour over a little stock or water
- Place dish in oven and turn joint at half time, add stock when necessary
- Time 15 minutes to each lb of meat

*Curry, which was offered by army cooks, from influence of the Indian Army, was also introduced more widely by the war. By adding pepper and spices to stews, the dish became more palatable when served cold.*

### CURRIED COD

- Clean and cut up cod and cut into 4oz steaks
- Place in cooking vessel and cover with water and cook until done, when done strain off water, keeping sufficient of the water that the fish has been boiled in
- Place flour, pepper, salt and curry powder in mixing bowl and mix well together
- Add sufficient of the water to make into this paste, bring fish stock to the boil
- Add thickening, cook for about 30 mins
- Pour into dishes over cod and serve hot

### SEA PIE

**Ingredients:** meat, stock, potatoes, flour, onions, baking powder, mixed vegetables, dripping, pepper, cold water

- Cut meat in cubes, taking excess fat.
- Wash, peel, rewash potatoes.
- Peel and wash mixed vegetables.
- Peel and cut up onions.
- Place a small quantity of stock in cooking vessel
- Place in meat, mixed vegetables, onions, potatoes on top, season with pepper & salt.
- Barely cover with stock then cover with paste made as for meat pie.
- Boil for 2½ to 3 hours, or they may be steamed. ■

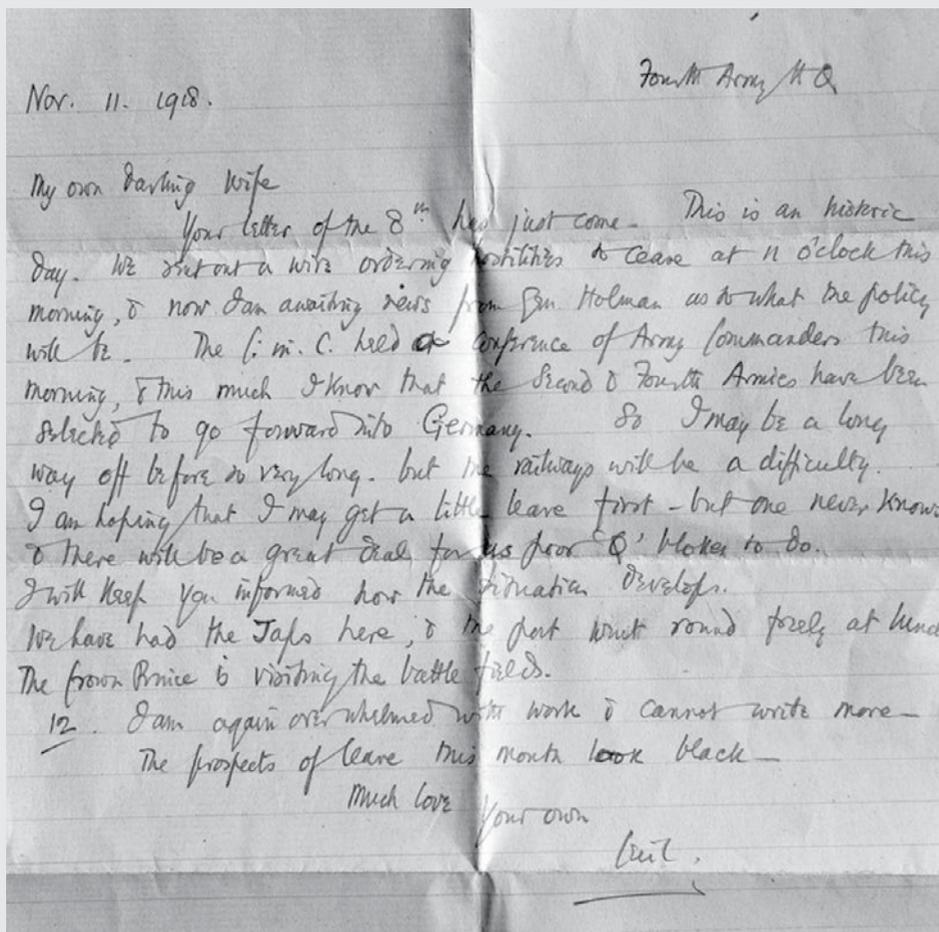
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*WWI Commemoration - The end came  
Cecil Thompson's letter written on Armistice Day.*

Colonel Thompson was the Grandfather of Myles Thompson of Nunwick Hall



Read more on the story of Colonel Thompson on the Cumberland and Westmorland Herald website:  
<http://www.cwherald.com/a/archive/the-long-and-short-of-it-bullets.430525.html>

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Applications should be made in writing to:

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Clerk to Gt Salkeld Parish Council

1 Garth Hill

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Brampton CA8 9NE

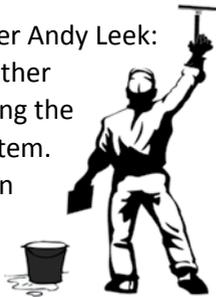
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## Fancy Dress, Fun, Frolics, Food and LOTS of Sport at Village Sports Day 2014

With a theme of 'Favourite Movie' this year's sports day got off to a tremendous start with four fun themed floats and many walk-on extras.

Blessed again with lovely weather and a collection of Great Salkeld VIP's, the floats received their awards and the traditional games began.

As ever, the sports were heavily contested with plenty who took part. The Boys vs Girls tug of war was very competitive which was won by the girls with help from some extra 'muscle'.

the Golden welly that occupies pride of place on the driveway of the two new champions of Salkeld.

The day / night was rounded off with roasting marshmallows on the communal fire with lots of good craic from all who had enjoyed another great sports day. Many, many, thanks to ALL who came, took part, marshalled, made floats, made cakes, ate cakes and pizza, drank beer and gave us all lots of laughs.



The Welly Wanging has quickly established hero status within the village and this year, like last, was heavily contested and offered a truly gripping mens and womens final that both came down to the last throw. The winners are easy to spot due to

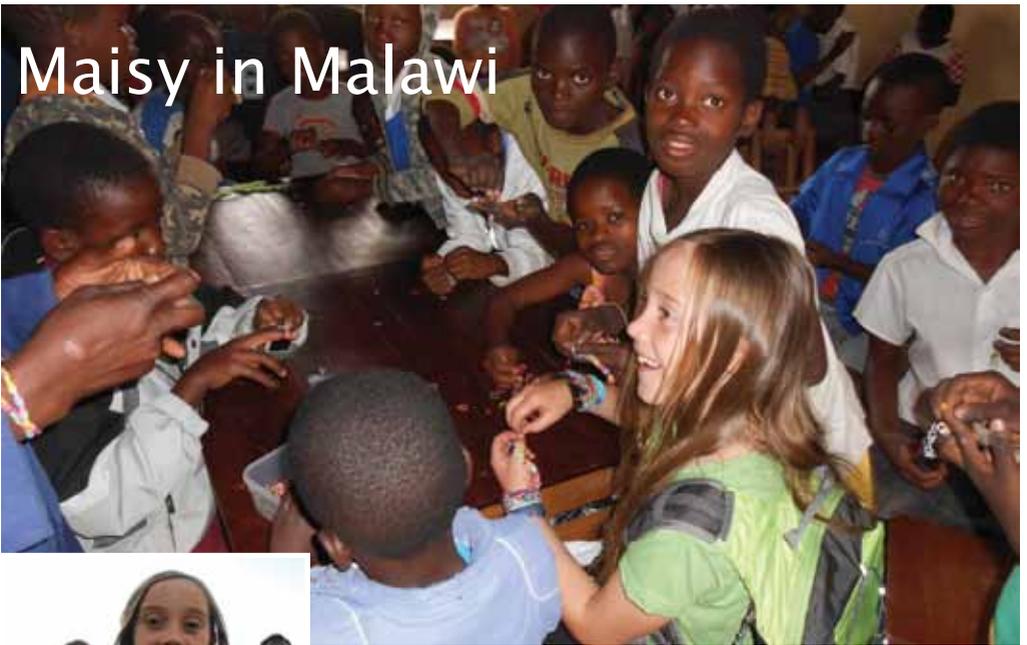


We are very lucky to live in such a smashing village that knows how to have a good time. Same again next year, with the theme on your favourite book. ■

by Rich Martin  
Chairman of GSSC



# Maisy in Malawi



**W**hile most children were finishing school at the end of term, Maisy

Yates was travelling to Malawi to continue going to school during the holidays - as the youngest volunteer at MOET School. She also wrote a blog about her experiences as a challenge to raise money to fund a nursery teacher for the next year.

## **What did you think when you first arrived in Malawi?**

We arrived in the capital city of Lilongwe and the airport was tiny. The city seemed quite modern, with many shops and buildings like you might find here. There were hardly any cars and most people were walking or on public transport. As we left the city, there was village after village of rectangular brick built houses which people build themselves – even making their own bricks! Just outside the city we saw huge silos of maize which the government store to sell during the ‘hungry’ times of the year. I found this quite scary to think that sometimes people run out of food.

## **Where did you stay in Malawi?**

We stayed at a volunteer cottage which was right on the beach of Lake Malawi. This wasn’t a beach for tourists sun-bathing or playing but it was always busy with fishermen and villagers coming to wash their clothes, pots and themselves! There were lots of children playing on the beach and it really surprised me to find that many children didn’t actually go to school. It was 2km from the school so sometimes we took a cycle taxi – which is basically a ride on the back of a bike!

## **What was it like at the school?**

It was quite different to my school as they started really early in the morning at 7am, although they finished at 12am because the



afternoon is very hot. MOET School is a school for orphans, whose parents have mostly died of HIV/AIDS and are looked after by guardians who are usually other family members. You have to pay to go to school in Malawi so these children probably wouldn't be able to go to school if it wasn't for MOET. At 9am all the children get a bowl of porridge and for some children this is their only meal of the day. Each class has their own building and they learn all their subjects in English. As well as learning subjects they also learn life skills such as cooking, tailoring, gardening and computers. The children have their own vegetable gardens and eat and sell what they grow!



### What else did you do in Malawi?

Well... you will have to read my blog to find out! But I will say that we got to see lots of animals on safari and we also visited animal rescue centres. I was very lucky to go behind the scenes at the Lilongwe Wildlife Sanctuary and go into the 'restricted area' and get to hold a Sevral kitten named Hamu that had been rescued a few weeks before. It was so cute and climbed all over my head and back!

### What did you do at the school?

When the headteacher of MOET School visited my school in July he brought some bracelets that had been made by his children. I asked him if his children had seen loom band bracelets and when he said they hadn't, we decided it would be a chance to share bracelet-making techniques! Many of my friends donated loom bands and we took out a huge box. The children were very excited to learn how to make loom band bracelets and soon they were making up their own designs for bracelets, necklaces, rings and headbands! I was very busy and once I had 100 children in a classroom with me – all making loom bands together. I also got to learn how to make their bracelets using fishing twine which are much trickier as you can weave words onto them.



### Do you think you will go back to Malawi?

I would love to go back to Malawi and visit MOET School again, especially to see the nursery class children. I would also like to volunteer at an animal rescue centre as I want to work with animals when I am older (I already volunteer at Eden Animal Rescue). I have to be 14 to volunteer at the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre, but we also visited the LSPCA (which is like the international version of the RSPCA) where I can volunteer if Mum comes with me! Next time I want to visit a place called Kedu which is where they release all the rescued wild animals. Who knows, maybe I might get to see Hamu the Sevral kitten back in the wild!

### Why did you decide to write a blog about your experiences?

MOET School is totally funded by donations so I wanted to raise some money for the school. I thought that writing a blog would be a good challenge - as well as a way of letting my family and friends see what I was doing. It was quite difficult writing the blog in Malawi as it took ages to upload the photos. I chose to raise the money for the nursery teacher because every morning, when we arrived at school, the nursery children would always run up to see me and play games.

Maisy travelled to Malawi with her Mum, Jane who was visiting the school as part of a Connecting Classrooms Project through the British Council. Since going to press, Maisy has managed to raise more than enough money through her blog to fund a nursery teacher - for 30 new children who started at the school this month. She is now planning to raise funds for much needed outdoor play equipment for the younger children.

You can read Maisy's blog on [www.google.com/+MaisyInMalawi](http://www.google.com/+MaisyInMalawi). If you would like to help Maisy raise funds for MOET School, please get in touch or donate through her **justgiving** page on the blog. ■

## Reflecting on WWI

### WOOD – WHAT A WAY TO LOOSE A WAR! by Richard Wood



In 1915, the Home Grown Timber Committee was formed as part of the Board of Agriculture in order to tackle the problem of timber shortage. This was a “Top Secret” project as it was imperative that the Germans were not aware of our vulnerability. The Government turned to the Empire and, especially, Canada, to help solve the problem. Originally, it was envisaged to import the required supplies from Canada, but due to the enormous bulk of timber and limited merchant ships available to transport it across

a U-boat infested Atlantic, it was decided to bring the military lumberjack units to the U.K. and cut down British and French forests. So the Canadian Forestry Corps was founded on 14th November 1916 as part of the Canadian Army.

Some 35,000 Canadians served in the Forestry Corps. The Americans also came to the rescue, forming 2 Forestry Engineering Regiments (the 10th and 20th Engineers). They served mainly in France, managing forestry growth, felling and extracting timber, and operating sawmills. These 2 Regiments combined in 1918 to become the largest regiment in the entire US army, often referred to as “not a regiment but a great manufacturing establishment” – 360 officers and 18,183 enlisted men just to produce timber for the US army needs!

In this country, in 1917, men working in the timber industries became a “reserved occupation” and thus could not be called up into the Forces.

Lessons were learnt from this originally unforeseen “Achilles Heel” of the war effort. As a direct result, the Forestry Commission was brought into being on 1st September 1919 to ensure that, at no future time, would there be a national timber shortage and that land was suitably obtained, planted and managed according to potential strategic future needs. It is still alive and well after nearly 100 years.

But it was a close shave! ■

It may seem strange but we were closer to losing the First World War because of a dire lack of timber than for any other reason.

In 1914, 90% of the country’s timber needs (11 ½ million tons) were imported, of which the vast majority was from the Baltic Countries. On the outbreak of war, Germany immediately targeted this shipping trade and virtually blockaded all Baltic imports which, geographically, was a relatively easy manoeuvre for them to accomplish. The timber shortage became immediately apparent during the sudden massive demand for the building of army camps for the housing and training of troops being called-up prior to being sent to the front – accommodation blocks, mess halls, kitchens, sanitary blocks, stores, equipment housing, laundries, administration blocks and so on – all wooden structures.

Apart from military camps, timber was also required in vast quantities in order to expedite the war. The building of dugouts, tunnelling, duckboards (since the trenches were usually deep in water), temporary (or “corduroy”) roads, road and rail vehicles, railway lines, packing cases, ammunition boxes, telegraph poles, barbed wire stakes, ship repairs, aircraft and hangars for them, railway sleepers and so on. Industry also used a huge amount – mining alone used 4 million tons annually.

**A**t the National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire on the 15 June 2014, in front of 1500 veterans, the new 'Naval Service Memorial' was unveiled. The memorial is all-inclusive and commemorates those who have served, serve today and will serve tomorrow regardless of rank, trade or fighting arm. The memorial, designed by Graeme Mitcheson, is made up of 13 sails of coloured glass representing the oceans around the world; there is also a bowed figure standing beside them facing the setting sun.

It is appropriate that we make time to reflect on the role that the Royal Navy played during World War 1. For decades before this time the British had ruled the seven seas, but the significant impact that the Imperial German Navy was now having on Britain was substantial. At the start of the war, the German Navy achieved some important operational feats. At the "Battle of Coronel", they inflicted the first major defeat on the Royal Navy in over one hundred years.

The war was having an impact on everyone in differing ways but there was one strategy which the Germans used that would have a profound effect. This was to try and starve us into submission. Not only were they attacking our Navy and coastal defences, they were also targeting our merchant ships which were bringing in crucial supplies from Canada, the



**At the Naval Service**

British Empire and the United States.

The Germans were the first navy to operate submarines successfully on a large scale in wartime, with over 350 submarines commissioned by the end of the First World War.

Using their fleet of U-boats, they prioritised our supply lines, this being an easier option than directly taking on our Navy. During World War 1, nearly 5,000 merchant ships had been sunk by U-boats, with the loss of 15,000 Allied sailors lives.

Given that our merchant shipping

fleet used well established sea routes, the Germans would only have to wait along these routes for a passing ship. Once a ship was detected, the U-boat would surface. The U-boats used their surface gun rather than a torpedo, as they had a limited supply of torpedo's and once all used up they would have to return to their home base to restock their supply.

In the early days of the war at sea, the Royal Navy reasoned that they did not have sufficient numbers of vessels to offer convoy protection to the merchant fleet. But as the decreasing supplies of food and essential goods had an impact on the nation, a way had to be found to protect our merchant fleet. As time moved on, it soon became apparent that the naval convoys did make a vast difference and that this positive action and commitment by our naval veterans and merchant seamen did have a profound and positive outcome for the British nation and the outcome of World War 1. ■

*In Flanders Field - by John McCrae, May 1915*

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie

In Flanders fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields..■





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