

MILITARY

MOBILIZATION – LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT

Britain's army was professional, highly trained but small. It was ready to mobilize well before Britain's ultimatum to Germany expired, detailed plans having been revised in the Spring of 1914. The mobilization of the 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment was ordered at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 4 August 1914. The first Reservist of the 1st Battalion to reach Lincoln Depot was Mr Fovargue, a telegraphist from Stamford. By 8 August another 542 had joined him. They were fitted out as they arrived and sent to rejoin the Regiment then at Portsmouth.¹ The Bishop recorded these events on 6 August. He wrote: "At Lincoln crowds to see the 1st Lincolnshires off to France."

At 8.47 p.m. on Tuesday, the 4th (Territorial Army) Battalion, which had 29 officers and 856 men, received the order to mobilize and 1007 notices to join were sent out to serving Territorials and National Reserves, Class 2. The marshalling of the 4th Battalion began on Wednesday. All companies were ordered to assemble at the Drill Hall in Lincoln, the Regimental HQ. This included the Horncastle Detachment G Company.



Fig. 6 í . Horncastle Detachment G Coy, 4th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment T.A. mobilized on 4 August. Passing through the market place. *Lincolnshire Life*. Vol 24, no 5 August 1984.

The Grantham Territorials, B Company, which consisted of four officers and 139 men, were at summer camp in Yorkshire. They joined HQ, G Company, (Grantham) with a strength of four officers and sixty-eight men. However, many men turned up for enlistment who were quite unsuitable and a large number were medically unfit for any kind of service. The writer of the Battalion's War Diary noted that the examination of these men should be much stricter than it has been in the past.² On Thursday, crowds lining the road cheered them from the barracks to the railway station.³ In Lincoln, a local newspaper reporter found the Drill Hall exceeding busy with the streets thronged with crowds of citizens all in tremendous excitement. Mobilization of the 4th Battalion continued through Saturday, but there was a shortage of Service dress clothing, great coats and puttees. Men living outside the city were billeted in the municipal Technical School, the Roman Catholic Day School, St Martin's School and Hall, the Newland Congregational Schoolroom, also St Hugh's Hall, St Martin's Hall and the Oddfellows Hall. The men had to sleep on the floor⁴ and the Bishop recorded: "their Barracks want to borrow mattresses for the extra soldiers who are there." On 11 August, the soldiers took three trains to Belper for training and moved to Luton on 15 August. On 28 August, 58 foreign service recruits arrived at the Lincoln HQ from Grantham. The next day, 37 more recruits arrived from Stamford and 74 from Spalding. On 31 August, 174 more arrived from Lincoln and 52 from Boston. In April 1918, the 4th Battalion Lincolnshire Volunteer Regiment was inspected by the King at Lincoln.⁵

Q 53285

New recruits to Lincolnshire Regiment at the racecourse

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The 5th (Territorial) Battalion, the ~~£~~Glorious Fifth of the Lincolnshire Regiment, was originally formed in April 1908 when the Territorials were introduced. They were at annual camp at Bridlington on 2 August but at 8.42 p.m. on 4 August, telegrams to mobilize were despatched to all Officers from Battalion HQ at Doughty Road Drill Hall, Grimsby, recalling the Companies to their respective Headquarters. Orders were issued to the outlying Companies to proceed by train to Grimsby early the following day. The Battalion had 24 officers and 780 men and required few additions to bring it up to full strength. For ten days the 5th remained in Grimsby, being billeted in the South Parade and Garden Street Schools, the Drill Hall, at the Docks and at Waltham. The Battalion immediately supplied guards for Grimsby's docks and harbour, the electricity station in Doughty Road, and the wireless station at Waltham. This hampered mobilization, but they were able to complete by 10 August.⁶

On Friday, 7 August, with the exception of the detachment on guard at the Weelsby wireless station, the whole of the 5th Battalion was employed in placing the docks in a state of defence, barricading piers, and digging shelter trenches on the beach at the mouth of the Humber at Cleethorpes. Plans were prepared to occupy the defences in case of attack. At 3 a.m. on Saturday, 8 August, an alarm was given and orders were received from the Officer Commanding the Humber Defences to occupy defence positions. During the day the work of improving the defences was continued and the next night the Battalion occupied their defence stations.

Headquarters of the 5th Battalion were established on board one of the Great Central Steamers, a Grimsby and Hook of Holland Line vessel, *S.S. Dewsbury*, which, like most of the passenger boats, took refuge in the docks and was drawn up opposite the goods sheds where the men were. Mrs Fane explored the docks on 10 September, then had tea on board ~~where~~ where Will is living with Captain Lloyd. 'a very pleasant fellow.' However, she was not the first woman to be so entertained. Marjorie Hett, the daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank C. Hett of Brigg, described their visit to Grimsby on 9 August to see the Brigg Territorials who had joined their battalion some days previously. The Grimsby streets were already full of soldiers, the Post Office being guarded by two men with fixed bayonets. Soldiers were in the Bull Ring painting the name of their regiment on several commandeered wagons.

The Hetts met a friend, George Sowter of the 5th Lincolns, who told them his battalion was going to Belper that night, but in fact it did not go until the early hours of 14 August having laid up its colours on 10 August in St James' Church. The Hetts walked over many railway lines and past numerous goods sheds littered with baggage and with men resting inside, some of them asleep. Here the 5th Battalion had been quartered since they arrived. The men guarding the dock had to watch for spies and were ordered to shoot anyone who did not halt at once when called upon to do so. On a visit to Grimsby on 6 October Mrs Fane and her friends the Jarvises were challenged by a sentry in this way. Not realising he was speaking to them they paid no attention, but ~~he~~ he very soon stopped us and asked us who we were and where we were going!⁷ The Hetts were told a spy had been caught the previous night which Marjorie considered ~~rather smart.~~ rather smart.^q Sowter took them to where the dock ended in a stone pier and from there they could see two huge cruisers on the river, some small war boats and many trawlers. A long block of wood about a foot high was drawn across the end of the pier leaving about six or seven feet to the dock edge. Sowter told them this was where they had slept two nights previously. Next, he took them on board for ~~a~~ most splendid tea in a ~~cosy~~ cosy saloon with sun streaming in.^q Marjorie said the *Dewsbury* was ~~a~~ very nice boat beautifully fitted up.^q After this visit the Hetts went to Cleethorpes where soldiers were filling sandbags and digging a trench. They considered themselves lucky in seeing so much.⁸

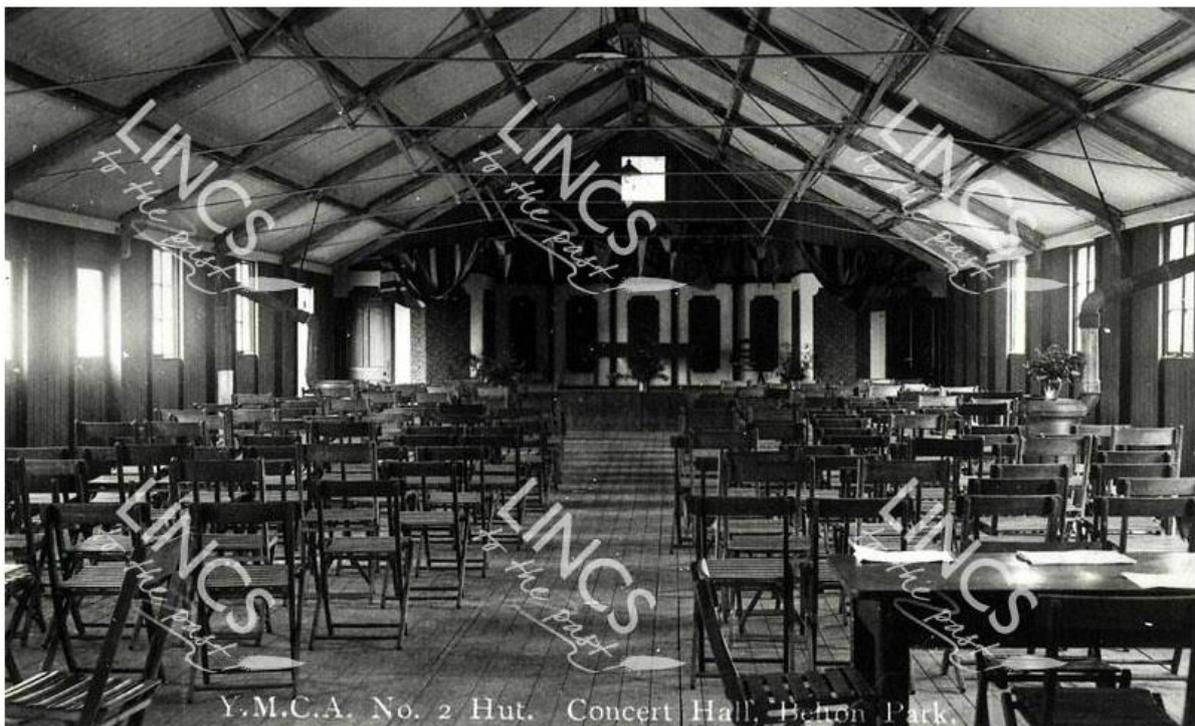
The 5th Battalion subsequently transferred to Luton where, by 29 August, they had volunteered for service abroad with the North Midland Division. On 27 February 1915, they left for France under the command of Colonel T.E. Sandall, forming part of the 46th Division. This was the first complete Territorial Division to enter upon actual service, a division complete in personnel, equipment and armament.⁹ The losses experienced by this Division in September and October were as devastating as those at the Somme. Captain G.H.J. Sowter, 5th Lincolns, aged 30, was killed leading his men in attack on Hohenzollern Redoubt.

The 3rd (Reserve) Battalion was a training unit. On 5 August Colonel Fane received a telegram sent to him at Fulbeck Hall from the Lincoln HQ, stamped at Leadenham at 10.20 a.m. It said: ~~We~~ We are mobilizing. Barker.^q His wife stuck it into her War Journal and wrote:

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Wed. 4th Aug 1914.¹⁰ Fulbeck Hall, Grantham. To-day William V. R. Fane joined the 3rd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment at Lincoln Barracks . war having been declared yesterday against Germany. He went off in the morning taking a young man named Parrish with him who appeared at the last moment wishing to join the army. Colonel Fane returned in the evening by the 5 o'clock train to fetch bedding, and remained to dinner, after which he went off in the motor taking the groom with him to enlist and be his servant. 5 National reserves have been called up today . 2 have gone from Fulbeck 5 My husband said about 175 men came into the Barracks to enlist yesterday.¹¹

By 8 August the Battalion had about 900 men and as a result of their transfer to Grimsby Colonel Fane left home at 4.00 a.m. and booked in at the Yarborough Hotel where, later in the month, the family had lunch together, Harry and Francis having previously gone to Lincoln to fetch their father's things from the Barracks'. One September day, after having tea, the family drove in the motor to see some constructed earthworks and barbed wire entanglements placed in order to defend the approach and the wireless telegraphy Station against invasion. On another occasion: 'Will came for us at 3.30 and Harry and I went for a long drive in the car to see the docks at Immingham - a man of war and several torpedo boat destroyers were in dock.' Sometimes, however, there were official duties. On 13 May 1916 they visited Grimsby to open the YMCA hut for the 3rd Battalion at Weelsby Camp.¹² In October, daily letters between husband and wife were interrupted when General Nugent inspected the 3rd Battalion. The following day Colonel Fane's letter said that the General was quite fairly civil, though hardly cordial. He says 600 more recruits have arrived making their numbers up to 2,600. This reduces the training to a farce, as we have neither rifles nor uniforms for them and not half enough instructors. The same is to be heard on every side.



Lincs to the Past reference: MLL 8983

Fig. YMCA No 2 Hut. Concert Hall, Belton Park.

From Lincs to the Past by courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council.
<http://www.lincolntothepast.com/photograph/>

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In early 1918 the Battalion transferred to Cork, but Colonel Fane was already there. On 20 December 1917, Mrs Fane recorded: Will turned up yesterday from Cork and has leave till next Friday.¹³

GRIMSBY 'CHUMS.' The 10th LINCOLNS

Also at camp on the declaration of war was the Grimsby Municipal College Officers' Training Corps. Under the command of Captain Ernest Stream and a colleague, Lieutenant William Staple Pratte, they left town on 27 July for the camp at Hagley Park, near Rugby in Staffordshire. On their return to Grimsby a delegation of Old Boys, ex-members of the College cadet corps, requested the formation of an infantry unit. This was agreed and they decided to offer their services to the 5th Battalion. Fifty-two Old Boys enrolled and within days they were 200 strong, more than was needed by the 5th which was at full strength at the end of the first week of September. On 9 September, Alderman John Herbert Tate, Chairman of the Recruiting Committee in Grimsby, then aged 50 and with only two months of office as Mayor of Grimsby to run, received War Office approval *via* the Northern Command at York, to form a new Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment as part of Kitchener's new army on the understanding that it should be raised, administered and trained by its raisers. So Tate became 'father' of the Chums, the 10th Lincolns. the only complete new battalion to be raised in the county.¹⁴



Lincs to the Past reference: MLL 11917

Fig. 9. MLL11917. Lincolnshire Regiment; large crowd of volunteers enlisting in the 10th Battalion, 'Grimsby Chums'. The Market Place, Grimsby.

From Lincs to the Past by courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council.

<http://www.lincolntothepast.com/photograph/305304.record?pt=S>

Posters were placed around the town appealing for men for the new Battalion. W.A. Vignoles, Honorary Secretary of the Grimsby Recruiting Committee, based at the Artillery Barracks, Grimsby, wrote to employers asking them to promise any of their employees who enlisted that they would be reinstated on their return to civil life as many thought they could be unemployed when the war ended.¹⁵ On 24 September at 8.00 p.m. the first batch of recruits were sworn in before the Mayor. By 19 October, the battalion was 950 strong. The Old Boys formed A Company. In the meantime, the War Office agreed to the formation of what became Pals Battalions and 304 were formed, but

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Grimsby decided against calling themselves Pals. The name 'Chums' appeared first on 11 September in the *Grimsby Telegraph*, a paper owned by Grimsby's MP Sir George Doughty in which his wife, Lady Eugenia Doughty, an Australian, published much patriotic prose and poetry. Her poem 'All Chums' was dedicated to the Battalion and gave the epithet virtually official approval, being taken up by those involved in recruiting.¹⁶ On 21 September a new recruiting song in connection with the effort to form a Chums Battalion was rendered by a lady at a meeting addressed by Captain Sir Francis Vane, at the Corn Exchange.¹⁷ This was probably 'All Chums. One line was ~~When~~ we heard they'd started fighting - well we wanted to be in. Hearing of the formation of this battalion, men came from outside the county to join. a significant batch from Wakefield.

Fig. 10 Imperial War Museum

Q 53286 Grimsby Chums at rifle drill.

Alderman Tate appointed an old friend, George Bennett, a retired Captain of the 1st Lincolnshire R.G.A. Volunteers, as the first temporary commanding officer. The War Office subsequently appointed as permanent Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel the Honourable George Edward Heneage, who had retired from the Regular Army after serving in the old Royal North Lincoln Militia, now re-named the 3rd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. Tate and his recruiting committee next approached the Earl of Yarborough, who became the Honorary Colonel of the Battalion, for permission to establish a hutted camp on his estate at Brocklesby, about ten miles outside Grimsby, so the new battalion could have proper military quarters and the chance to train away from the urban environment. There, the soldiers trained, cooked on camp fires, played soccer, boxed and dug trenches.



Fig. 11. G 727:356:1. Disc 3 Picture.
Chums, Brocklesby, 1914 – 1915. 3 Platoon, A Company

Photograph reproduced courtesy of North East Lincolnshire Council Library Service

Two months after the Mayor's appeal for volunteers the 10th were 1,000 strong, four companies of 250 each. In the absence of khaki the War Office had bought 500,000 surplus Post Office uniforms and the 10th marched off in these to Brocklesby.¹⁸ Here they were quartered until June 1915. Their passing out parade was held on 19 May, 1915. Now 1,200 strong, and accompanied by their band, they arrived at Cleethorpes railway station at 6.00 p.m. They marched along the Promenade, St Peter's Avenue, down Isaac's Hill, Grimsby Road and Cleethorpes Road, thousands lining the route. Then to the reception committee at the People's Park gate, where a short service was held and the salute taken by the Mayor, flanked by the recruiting committee and Tate, now Deputy Mayor. Then back to Brocklesby and by 8.30 p.m. it was over. It was a very special occasion for Cleethorpes and Grimsby to see 'their boys' now smart in khaki, with badges and brasses, on parade. The Chums then left for Studley Royal, Ripon, for musketry training and more importantly to join up with other units to form their Brigade and become part of the 34th Division. Then Lord and Lady Yarborough turned Brocklesby Hall into a hospital. The cadre returned to Grimsby on 5 July 1918.

Grimsby provided about 8,000 men for various military and naval units, mostly the 10th and 11th Lincolns. Colonel Fane signed the papers for those seeking a commission. He used the *Lincolnshire*

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Star to advise people that the thousands of soldiers quartered in the Grimsby District for the winter needed a place where they could relax 'untroubled by people who were anxious to improve them'. At a public meeting in November a committee was formed and it was decided to convert the Fisherlads' Institute into a Soldiers Institute.¹⁹ A full list of the Battalions of the Territorial Army in Lincolnshire is given in the Appendix.

KITCHENER'S ARMY

Before the end of August, the Bill authorizing the New Army of 18 Divisions had gone through Parliament, and Lord Kitchener, the newly appointed Secretary for War and Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, called for the first 100,000 men of the one million he wanted. As news filtered through about attacks on yet more Belgian towns, there was increased pressure on British men to enlist. Recruiting meetings were held around Lincolnshire. Captain Weigall appealed in Boston for volunteers.²⁰ The *Spalding and Lincolnshire Standard* called to all men between 19 and 30 years of age, and ex-soldiers between 30 and 42 to 'Serve your country' but some men were rejected for bad teeth. A Grimsby dentist, C.J. McCarthy of Hainton Avenue, offered free treatment and supply of dentures to the first twenty-five men who were rejected solely on this basis.²¹ On 5 September the famous picture was published of Lord Kitchener, his finger pointing at the viewer, bearing the caption JOIN YOUR COUNTRY'S ARMY! In response, the 1/5th, 2/5th and 3/5th, were raised principally in Grimsby but also in Gainsborough, Scunthorpe, Louth, Alford, Spilsby and Barton-on-Humber.²² As if warning what this could mean, that day the *Spalding & Lincolnshire Standard* published its first casualty lists.²³ Mrs Fane's War Journal included information about a recruitment meeting at Caythorpe and photographs of Lord Kitchener and Sir John French. At the Armistice she wrote that 103 men went from the village of Fulbeck and six gave their lives.²⁴

On 26 September, the *Lincolnshire Standard* published a Tommy's report that 20,000 men were being prepared for Service with the Lincolnshires. 'Tommy', short for 'Tommy Atkins', was a long-established name given to British soldiers. The 6th (Service) Battalion was at full strength, with four companies, A, B, C and D, and included many young men from Boston, Spalding, Horncastle and the surrounding towns and villages. Barrack arrangements were not ideal for sleeping. Those who lived in Lincoln were allowed home to sleep because of overcrowding. Twenty-five men slept in the little school and some in tents on the green, but some slept on the bare floor with one blanket between three. Mrs Fane described the mobilization of civilians to provide necessities such as blankets, food and water during September:

Ld Kitchener has publicly appealed for blankets for the men . people are beginning to find it difficult to give all the War Office expects of them . of course it is their own fault for being absolutely unprepared for war, in spite of all that has been said on the subject by Ld Roberts and Ld Charles Beresford and others. The Queen at the request of Ld Kitchener asks for 300,000 socks and ditto belts for soldiers immediately.²⁵

A year later, Fulbeck also sent 260 sandbags for the troops at the Front.

LINCOLNSHIRE YEOMANRY

In addition to the three main places where soldiers were quartered, Grimsby, Lincoln, Grantham, a Territorial Force was stationed at Louth. In 1913 it consisted of the 3rd Lincolnshire Battery, 1st North Midland Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, D Company of the 5th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment and the Lincolnshire Yeomanry, B Squadron.



Lincs to the Past reference: MLL 18029

Fig. 12. MLL18029

Lincolnshire Yeomanry.

From Lincs to the Past by courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council.

See also Lincolnshire Life Vol 13, no 12, January 1974, pages 38 - 45. The image of the Lincolnshire Yeomanry prior to embarkation in 1915

The Yeomanry was a volunteer cavalry unit which was headquartered in the Old Barracks in Lincoln. The Yeomanry's squadrons were based as follows:

- A Squadron: Grantham (and drill stations at Stamford, Bourne and Holbeach)
- B Squadron: Louth (Spilsby, Horncastle and Alford)
- C Squadron: Lincoln (Sleaford, Gainsborough, Market Rasen, Wragby)
- D Squadron: Grimsby, under Major Ronald Sleight (Barton, Brigg, Scunthorpe, Ulceby)

The Sleaford Troop of Lincoln's C Squadron is seen in 1912 in (**Fig. ... MLL 18029**) lined up with their horses at Louth camp. Lieutenant-Colonel Ancaster appealed for saddles and bridles for the Lincolnshire Yeomanry's horses. By the end of the year approximately 160 saddles and bridles had been received at the Castle, Lincoln, but a further 200 were needed.

The first task of D Squadron, was guarding the East Coast. The 1/1st Lincolnshire Yeomanry moved with the brigade to Norfolk during August 1914 and was placed under orders of the 1st Mounted Division. During September, the Yeomanry formed a second line regiment known as the 2/1st Lincolnshire Yeomanry. In July 1916 they were converted into a cyclist unit, then back into cavalry and remained at home throughout the war. In 1915 the 3/1st Lincolnshire Yeomanry was formed. They remained in the United Kingdom until early in 1917 when they were absorbed into the 1st Reserve Cavalry Regiment.

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In October Lord Kitchener and other leading military authorities considered that the danger of an invasion of, or at any rate a raid on, British shores would be greater during the next three months than ever before. They must have sufficient men to oppose Germany's might.²⁶ Major Royds, MP for the Sleaford Division, visited Spalding as one of the chief markets of Lincolnshire, and at the request of Lord Ancaster and other officers addressed the district's farmers in the Spalding Corn Exchange calling for further recruits for the Lincolnshire Yeomanry in which farmers were likely to serve. Class differences were preserved, with labourers serving under the local farmer and many from the same district were killed.²⁷ Perhaps in response to this appeal C.H. Tann and Geo. Tann (1st Lincolns) J. Neale (Yeomanry) F. Neal and F. Rose, all joined from Holbeach St Marks.²⁸ Their names do not appear on the village war memorial, so it is assumed that they survived.

OTHER TROOPS

Troop movements and activities were observed throughout the county. The *Lincolnshire, Boston & Spalding Free Press* recorded: During last week about a dozen trains containing troops and blue-jackets for active service passed through Spalding and behind several of the trains were trucks on which cannon were loaded. Some passed north to Grimsby and others south.²⁹ In early October, 700 soldiers arrived in Boston from Louth.³⁰ This was the 9th Battalion of the Hampshire Cycle Corps under Colonel Johnson. They arrived via Alford and rested under the shadow of the tower of St Botolph's Church, known locally as the Stump and in which a serious crack had been found before the war. They encamped in Central Park, rifles stacked, and made preparations for a snack, the Police trying to keep spectators within bounds. The necessities of life were provided by local people. An unnamed lady provided bucket after bucket of water for them to wash in and inhabitants in Tawney Street and Hartley Street sent trays of tea and cakes; apples and hampers were also supplied by the local population. Some 250 men were billeted in the Drill Hall and 150 in Rifle Hall, some at the White Hart and others at the Red Lion. Their mascot, a young foxhound puppy, delighted onlookers. The men left on Monday for Portsmouth where they were expected to arrive on Thursday.³¹

On 18 November, mounted soldiers arrived in Skegness. Described as fine specimens of Scotch manhood in their khaki uniforms surmounted by their Glengarry caps, about 300 men, A, B, C Squadrons of Lord Lovat's Scouts, arrived in the evening. The battalion, which had been quartered at Grimsby for a few days, commenced the road journey of forty to fifty miles in early morning and squadrons were distributed at various places *en route*. A number of horses with a large amount of luggage arrived by the afternoon train. Although this provoked much interest, this was as nothing compared to that created by the arrival of the mounted men. As early as 6.30 p.m. people began to congregate at the best vantage point, the Ship Hotel corner. There were various false alarms but at about 9.30 p.m. bagpipes were heard, and the Scouts came into view, riding or leading their shaggy-haired little ponies, most of which seemed undaunted by their long journey. They were billeted in the old portion of Seaview Hotel, the Vine Hotel, and the Nottingham Poor Boys Camp and stabling was secured for all the horses. C Squadron left the next day to take up duties elsewhere.³²

BELTON PARK

On 8 September the *Lincolnshire, Boston & Spalding Free Press* announced that the 11th Northern Division of the new force of Kitchener's men were to be stationed near Grantham which had been a garrison town in the past. Earl Brownlow had previously allowed Special Reserve and Territorial units to use the grounds of his Grantham home, Belton House, for camping and training. He now placed the whole of the Park at the disposal of the War Office for the new troops. The area between Belton House and the eastern side of the river Witham became one of the largest military camps for the infantry in Britain, being the permanent training centre of the 11th Northern Division. It was intended that the Park would be prepared for the troops' occupation so as to interfere as little as possible with its amenities and to employ local labour to erect the necessary hutting. Adelaide, Countess Brownlow, took a keen interest in the troops' welfare and many of them sent letters and postcards to her when they were on active service.

Before being sent to Grantham, all men first spent a few weeks in Lincoln barracks. The food was quite good, but the method of serving it unpopular. The men queued outside the shed, usually for over an hour. There were no plates or knives, which was awkward at dinner time. Dinner consisted of boiled meat, potatoes and bread. When billeted at Lincoln Race Course (Fig. Q 53285) meals were better than at barracks. Rifles were given out two or three days before leaving for Grantham,³³ and the men sent off at short intervals in batches of about 200, usually with a royal send-off. After a similar welcome

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they marched three miles to Belton Park camp. There was a short address from the captain and the men were allotted to tents. (Fig. 136)

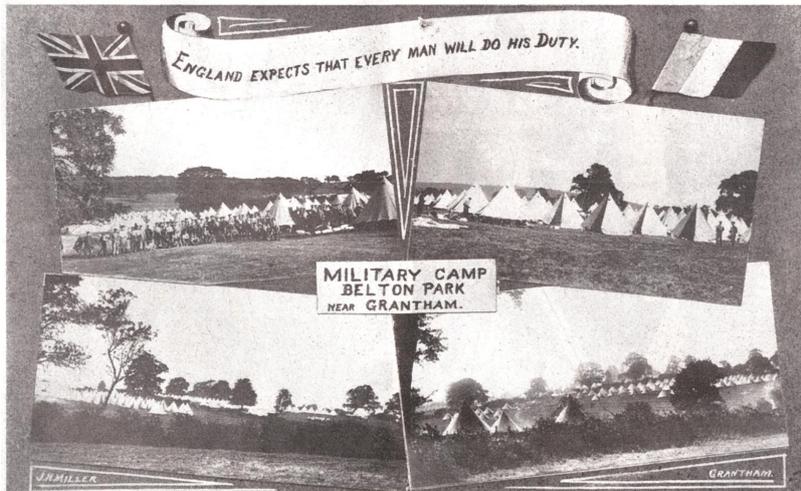


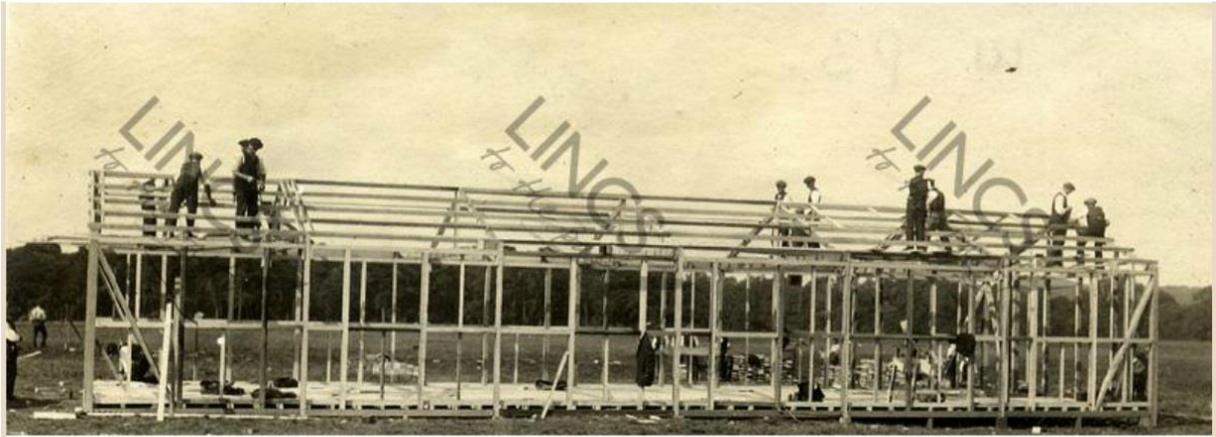
Fig. 136 Post card of Military Camp at Belton Park. *Lincolnshire Life* Vol 24, no 5 August 1984

Meals were better but even at Belton they were not given plates or cutlery until three days after arrival. Another complaint was that canteen prices for extra items were more expensive than in local shops. Their daily routine began with the first parade at 6.30 a.m., with running and physical exercise lasting one hour. From 9.00 a.m. - 12.30 there was more exercise and between 2.00 to 3.00 p.m., after which work ceased. There was a night march twice a week through country lanes or woodland. Bathing parade took place two or three times a week, with visits to Grantham baths. Swedish drill was used. Mrs Fane's War Journal includes a postcard bearing a ditty with the following verse:

There's another kind of drill, especially invented for the Army,
I think they call it Swedish, and it nearly drives you barmy;
This blinking drill it does you good, it makes your bones so tender
You can coil yourself up like a snake and crawl beneath the fender.³⁴

As the wife of a professional soldier Helen Fane was concerned with local military matters. On 9 September she wrote:

We went yesterday to see what was going on at the camp in Belton Park, Grantham, which old Brownlow has offered to the Government. We found 500 huts were in process of being erected, wooden with corrugated iron roofs, and the insides lined with something between felt and concrete in sheets! Colonel Maxwell was in Command, and already 18,000 men were in tents waiting for the huts to be ready for them, which will be in about 6 weeks' time.



Lincs to the Past reference: GRL 1455

Fig. 14 Belton Camp; workmen erecting the wooden framework to be clad with corrugated metal of a living hut, part of the preliminary training camp in Belton Park.
From Lincs to the Past by courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council. **GRL1455**

By mid-September there were partially and fully completed barrack rooms. (Fig. 16d . MLL 8984). It was planned to complete about 1,000 structures in less than two months. On Monday, 21 September General Plumer paid an informal visit to the Division. Men were still under canvas, with the number continually being added to. They were without uniforms so drilled daily in the open without tunics. Nonetheless, the improvement in their appearance following military training was noted.³⁵ On 9 October Helen Fane had tea at the Leadenham Rectory. There she met Captain Elkington and Mr Fraser who had come over from the Camp at Belton where there are 10,000 men at present in tents, but they expect to get into the newly built huts in about a fortnight.³⁶



Lincs to the Past reference: MLL 8984

From Lincs to the Past by courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council.

<http://www.lincstothepast.com/photograph/>

Belton Park Golf links were a thing of the past, the pavilion having been transformed into the HQ of the War Department and of Sir John Jackson Ltd, the firm that was supervising construction of the buildings. Joiners and joiners' labourers came from all parts of the Midlands and northern counties and were on full time on arrival, while many had overtime. Sunday was as busy as any weekday.³⁷ During 1916 there were allegations and criticisms against Sir John Jackson Ltd in the report of the Public Accounts Committee and published in the *Daily Mail* and *The Times* of 19 August 1916. His firm was contracted to supervise the works on behalf of the War Office, and be paid expenses. On being asked to take on more work, he asked for an allowance in addition to expenses. This would normally have been 10 per cent, but times were not normal and he thought 5 per cent enough. Nevertheless, he was accused of exacting his 'pound of flesh' despite the fact that the Directors were to give their services free and they were effectively erecting the huts for no payment. Sir John argued that the evidence which was taken before the Committee was incomplete and asked for a judicial enquiry to which the Prime Minister finally agreed. The Commission of Enquiry was held in January 1917 and decided that the allegations of the Public Accounts Committee were completely unfounded.³⁸

In December it was announced that more huts were to be constructed at Belton Park, some for Royal Engineers who were expected shortly. The men were currently undertaking field operations and route marches, including a Battalion turnout by the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment who marched to Grantham, Harlaxton and back via Barrowby, headed by brass, drum and fife bands. It was considered that more frequent parades would help recruiting.³⁹ There had been rapid progress with the Hospital and several of the wards were approaching completion. The Wesleyan Soldiers Home and Salvation Army Home were doing good work and the YMCA Institute would soon be open for recreation. There were spacious marquees for the social and moral welfare of the men in an attempt to provide places of counter attraction to questionable ones. On 24 April, 1917 Mrs Fane went to work at the YMCA hut, but it is not known whether this was a regular commitment as she did not mention it again.⁴⁰ This post card

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image of the YMCA no. 2 hut, the concert hall, shows the interior looking along the length of the building towards the stage (Fig.10). It is of prefabricated wood or corrugated iron construction with a board floor. A coke stove is just visible on the right with one of the several vases of flowers on top. There are folding wooden chairs to sit on.



Lincs to the Past reference: MLL 8983

Fig. 15. Belton park Camp; copy of a postcard of 'YMCA no.2 hut, concert hall'; **MLL8983**
From Lincs to the Past by courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council



Lincs to the Past reference: MLL 8984

Fig. 16 Belton Park Camp MLL8984
From Lincs to the Past by courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council.

The men's sleeping quarters can be seen in Fig. 11, the interior of a barrack block in a permanent hut for twenty-six men. The accommodation is sparse, but more roomy than tents. There are plank beds on low trestles with rolled up bedding on some and hooks on the walls for their clothes. The coke stove can be clearly seen, and the bucket and mop are ready for cleaning the bare wooden floor.

In early September the minister of St Peter's Hill Congregational Church, Rev. W.G. Summers, saw men in the High Street writing post cards on walls, buildings and each other's backs. He and the church officials agreed to open the schoolroom for troops to use as a writing and rest room. They had small invitation cards printed, similar to a railway ticket, which were distributed by Boy Scouts.

The first night about 40 men came including some Belgians, then about 60. A full Committee was elected, Mr R. Griffiths, Secretary; Treasurer, Mr S K Harrison with 12 ladies, and a rota of helpers. The club opened in the evenings and tea, cakes, stewed fruit, puddings were provided with the help of bakers and confectioners. One Deacon offered eggs and over 1,000 were sold each weekend. The hymn 'The Day Thou gavestō ' ended each evening as the club closed.

In addition to Belton, there was a second camp, Harrowby,⁴¹ and between them approximately 25,000 soldiers were housed, a number that far exceeded the town population. There was also the Barracks on Sandon Road, which became a Red Cross hospital, and a dormitory at King's School was used for the wounded. The new camps were serviced with supplies of materials by a network of railway lines which left the main line at Manthorpe. This piece of rapid railway construction was undertaken from Peascliffe, where a line to Belton Park, two and a half miles in length, was laid in three and a half days.⁴² The Army Service Corps were in permanent quarters in the centre of the Park adjoining the railway line, large warehouses having been erected for provisions coming by train. The railway branch line into Harrowby camp from Belton Camp was known as Beacon Branch and its station was on the

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approximate stretch from Harrowby School to Jubilee Avenue.⁴³ Harrowby Camp was home to the Garrison Theatre which showed 'The Importance of Being Earnest' on 17 December 1917 and 'Dick Whittington' on 4 February 1918. Around 800 men from Grantham were killed and hundreds left disabled from limb loss or gas.

In addition to their dependence on civilians for clothes, blankets and kit bags, the soldiers were also dependent on the civilian population for their laundry. The Grantham Labour Exchange worked out a scheme for washing the 11th Northern Division's garments which were to be collected on Mondays and returned on Fridays. It was thought that the plan would benefit local washerwomen by a total of £218 per week. Each woman was expected to take about twenty-four sets of washing per week, a set comprising four garments from each man; for this she would be paid 3½d per set which would entitle her to 7s per week. Each soldier was expected to tie his garments into a bundle, and attach his name and number; each section would have its own washing enclosed in a sack, thus four sacks for each company. The sacks were to be sent to a central station at the Training Centre and transported to three depots in Grantham: the Central Hall in Wharf Road, the Oxford Street Hall and the Springfield Mission Hall. There three voluntary Committees of ladies promised to undertake the marking and mending of the garments and see that the articles were properly distributed, so that from start to finish the work was done on business lines.⁴⁴ A supply of transports was needed to complete the scheme for washing, implying that even these would not be supplied by the Army. Those who could help with this were asked to communicate with Miss E.J. Beardsley, Labour Exchange, Grantham, which was acting in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health at Grantham and the Medical Officer of Health at the Camp. They intended to begin operations on Monday 21 September. At that date there were 325 women in the scheme, but 500 were required.⁴⁵

About 12 different regiments were quartered at Belton at any one time. A list is given in the Appendix. Promising recruits were picked out for a special squad and turned into NCOs. Grantham became busy and more cosmopolitan; bakers, shops, pubs and taxi drivers did a roaring trade. However, the establishment of military camps gave rise to social problems and crime increased, so the General Officer Commanding, Major General F. Hammersley, CB placed the borough out of bounds. Pickets were stationed at all points. Only those with special passes were supposed to be admitted but passes were given to all NCOs and five per cent of the men. This was a situation which could not continue - the men needed to get out of camp.

Sometimes soldiers were the victims of crime. John Thomas Wilks, a travelling photographer, was charged with stealing an overcoat valued at 21s, described as ~~the~~ the property of the officer commanding the 11th Northern Division at Belton Park. The coat belonged to Lance Corporal E. Casburn, of the Notts and Derbyshire Regiment and was missed from his tent.⁴⁶ Stealing from troops was not an uncommon event. In July 1918, 26336 Private P. A. Rowe wrote from the New Barracks, Lincoln:

Sir, . It is grievous to find, that although we are called from home to help with the struggle to prevent an invasion upon our shores, yet there is still 'the early riser' who persists in paying our gardens a visit and pinches the potatoes by scratching like an old hen before daylight, then proceeds to lighten the fruit trees, etc.

Could not something be done to prevent this in our absence?⁴⁷

The religious life of the troops was catered for by the Chaplains and through Church attendance. The Bishop confirmed men from Belton and elsewhere. On 25 April 1915, the Sunday after Easter, he 'confirmed seven "chums" (10th Lincs Territorials) from Brocklesby presented by E. Loft, their Chaplain'. Confirmations were not always held on Sundays. On Friday 30 July he 'confirmed five soldiers from Belton Park Camp. A number of wounded also came to tea; all together, with the Chaplains, they made a happy party for tea in our dining room.' His records also indicate the cosmopolitan nature of Belton, for on Saturday, 21 April 1917, his six confirmation candidates from Belton were Australian soldiers. Again on 1 July, he preached at a Parade service at 9.45 a.m. 'to a Church FULL of troops.' Then he went by car to Belton, where he addressed a large hut full of Australians.

In October 1916, the Bishop preached at St Wulfram's, Grantham, to a congregation consisting notably of ~~men~~ men. However, he was concerned that ~~Grantham~~ Grantham is dominated by Toryism & by Mowbray's Brewery. The Drink Tory element seems everywhere predominant, & it is to be feared that many who would like to be with us, dare not declare themselves for fear of all sorts of influences!⁴⁸

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At a meeting in Nottingham in mid-December, where Grantham's problems were discussed, Captain Fitzgerald, responsible for the conduct of Belton, said that there was at first an appalling amount of drunkenness which was difficult to deal with as the military police were themselves new. Drunkenness had now decreased. The troops were more disciplined. A large number of 'bad hats' had enlisted, but had been dismissed, and amusements arranged for men in the camp. There was no martial law but publicans realised it was not worth their while to give men too much drink. No soldier was to be served before 1.00 p.m. or between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. and pubs now closed after 8.00 p.m. However, Captain Fitzgerald said intemperance and immorality went arm in arm, the latter was very bad and on the increase. The Bishop of Southwell said the New Army must be made strong in character as well as in arms and citizens must share in that burden. They needed firstly, to create temperance in the Army and to make the men in camp happy. Secondly, women must help them. The Church must influence the defence of camps from the careless behaviour of girls and women and people must guard their daughters against these dangers. Homes were being established to guard some of the saddest cases of girls.⁴⁹

Thousands of machine gunners passed through Harrowby and prostitution was reported to be rife with train loads of ladies of easy virtue coming into Grantham from different cities, especially Nottingham. There were also a great many girls who had been respectable, and were now not so. A notice was published prohibiting women from going into Grantham, but this caused a storm of protest. Captain Fitzgerald explained it was issued as a preventative measure and did not refer to respectable girls but that it had had a beneficial effect. Captain Rayner said the Territorials received the best report from the civilian police with no sign of drunkenness among them. Despite these comments, there was still drunkenness. Two soldiers from Belton Park were at Grantham Police Court on 26 December 1914 for being found drunk on the licensed premises of the Artichokes Inn, Swinegate. They were convicted, but not fined. General Hammersley, under DORA 1914, closed the Inn for the sale of any intoxicating liquors until further notice.⁵⁰

It was not only soldiers who were charged with drunkenness. Mrs Maud Tutt of East Street, who appeared at Grantham Police Court with two black eyes, was charged with being drunk and incapable in Beacon Lane the previous Saturday. She pleaded guilty. Her husband was employed at Belton Park, but had left her and she had been turned out of the place where she was living and had nowhere to go. She was reported as being 'in the habit of going about with soldiers'. Mr Casburn said this was a case when General Hammersley, who was entitled to place restrictions on civilians, ought to serve a notice compelling the accused to remain indoors from 7.00 at night till 8.00 in the morning. She was fined 10s or given 14 days imprisonment.

Consequently, Grantham was the first town in the country north of London to appoint a policewoman. The first women police officers patrolling the streets of Grantham were Miss Allen and Miss Harburn. They appeared on 16 December, provoking considerable interest. The Association for the Help and Care of Girls had brought them in on account of the large number of troops camped in the vicinity of the town, the idea being that trained women could effect more good in keeping girls and young women from evil influences than inexperienced persons. The Corps of Women Police Volunteers, from which these two officers had been drawn, was enrolled in London with the object of providing a body of trained women for the service of the public. Instruction was given in drill, signalling, first aid, self defence, procedure at Police courts, and the method of collecting accurate information. The duties were about identical with those of police constables. All women police wore a smart uniform of navy blue when on duty, with a felt hat somewhat similar to a bowler. Strict discipline was maintained, and authority vested in a Chief and Assistant Chiefs. The Chief of the Corps, Miss Damer Dawson, came to Grantham to supervise the officers' preliminary work. She informed the *Grantham Journal* that the organisation was started in a spirit of earnest and responsible endeavour and not with a view to sensational effect or amateur effort. The paper responded: In her endeavour to carry out the local work successfully, Miss Dawson is assured of the cooperation of the Borough and Military Police.⁵¹ In 1915, Grantham magistrates swore in Mrs Edith Smith, making her the first policewoman in Britain with full powers of arrest.

As Christmas approached, families were asked to invite a soldier to visit them. Traditional Christmas fare was also provided. At Brigg, where Lady Rawlinson and Mrs Foster-Fraser were involved in the production of Plum Puddings for the Troops the quantity totalled over 20 tons and Mrs Janie Hett inserted in her diary an unattributed newspaper picture showing tins being filled.⁵² All huts at Belton camp were gaily decorated with coloured paper decorations. The Lincolnshires had a Church parade at

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Grantham Parish Church and on Boxing Day the married men were allowed to invite their wives and children to afternoon tea and a concert. Over 200 attended.

During Christmas and New Year there was heavy rain which transformed the camp into a vast area of mud. On 16 January 1915, mules arrived to help the troops. Belton became known for ankle deep mud and gave the poets among the troops a chance to exercise their talent:

When the war is over and we've captured Kaiser Billy,
To shoot him would be merciful and absolutely silly.
Just send him down to Belton, amongst the mud and clay
And let the Crown Prince watch him as he slowly fades away.⁵³

The Grantham Equitable Co-operative Society used the large Dining Room in the East Yorkshire Line where Mr Alcock of the Co-operative Wholesale Society gave a lecture with lantern slides on the work of the Co-operative in manufacturing such things as jam, shirts, plum puddings, tobacco and cigarettes for the troops. A full ship load was sent to the front line in the Society's own steamer. The Belton Military Hospital was nearing completion and in the Rookery a cinema to accommodate 1,000 was opened on 27 February from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. by Major General Hammersley and then opened daily from 5.30 to 9.30 p.m., and on Sundays, from 3.00 to 9.30 p.m. Prices were between 2d and 1s. It showed films and live star turns. So, for example, on 6 June 1917 there was a Grand Vaudeville Entertainment.

MACHINE GUN CORPS

By 1918 the camps at Belton and Harrowby held 45,000 men and more than 120,000 machine gunners had passed through the Training Centre undergoing Machine-gun training. The Machine Gun Corps was created by Royal Warrant on 14 October 1915, to effect a necessary economy in machine gun personnel and material. The first company MGC was raised by Army Order 413 of 22 October 1915 and the Training Centre was established to train men for Infantry Brigade MGCs which were to be formed at home, and Drafts to Infantry Brigade MGCs formed overseas or sent out from home. Men who volunteered for the Corps were transferred immediately to Grantham where they formed Brigade Machine Gun Companies, and furnished drafts for all such Companies. All men, including those who wanted to remain regimental machine gunners and those who were enlisted, were trained in the use of Vickers, Maxim and Lewis Guns.⁵⁴ In December all personnel sent to the Training Centre under War Office letters 20/Machine Gun Corps/3 (AG1) were to be transferred to the Corps. Men who were sent to Grantham as instructors but who were fit for Home service only would not be transferred until fit.

One hundred personnel were required to set up the Corps. Only well educated and intelligent men were thought suitable for this work and therefore great care was required in their selection. The warrant officers and non-commissioned officers were to report to Machine-gun Training Centre on Monday 6 December 1915, and the privates on 20 December. That month 3,040 personnel were selected from the Reserves to be sent to the Training Centre. The men selected had no machine gun experience or training. The privates were to be selected as far as possible from those with more than one month, but less than two months service and given in the following order:⁵⁵

- a. Volunteers
- b. Men who had fired parts I and II of their musket training,
- c. Men of good physique

In the Corps as a whole 170,500 officers and men served in the MGC. There were 62,049 casualties with 12,498 being killed and 12 VCs.⁵⁶ In Grantham the MGC became known as the suicide club because around one-third of its members were killed. On 20 July, 1916, the King and Queen inspected units of the MGC and had luncheon with the Earl and Countess Brownlow.⁵⁷

The Corps published their own magazine, the *Machine Gun Corps Magazine* and also *The Pull-Thro*, the first issue dated July 17, 1915. Its 14 August 1915 issue gives insights into the humour of the camp. Under the heading *Military Terms Defined* are the following definitions:

Defaulter . an evildoer

Drunk . a state of blissful oblivion in which one forgets one is in the Army and that there is such a thing as drill.

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Pull-Thro . a popular penny periodical; also a contrivance for cleaning rifles. Both useful for brightening bores.

In 1917 the Machine Gun Training Corps Beagles became a new feature at the Training Centre. The pack of hounds consisted of twelve and a half couples lent by E. Felton of Lichfield Garrison. The kennels were built on one of the training grounds and a kennelman was taken over with the pack. The hounds met every Saturday afternoon for hare chasing. The writer considered that Belton meets were the most amusing owing to the total disregard for rules of the field - throwing sticks at the hare, and trying to tackle her. In addition, there were Boxing exhibitions held every Wednesday and free tuition given at Belton. The men thought the presence of the mess gramophone helped to win the war.

On 29 August, 1919 the departure of the MGC from Grantham was marked by a memorial service to fallen Officers, NCOs and Men at the Parish Church and their standard was placed in St Wulframs Church. The Corps disbanded in 1922. It was therefore considered to have no past and no future. At least 62 MGC Companies were formed at Grantham, and one Battalion.

HOME versus FOREIGN SERVICE TROOPS

There were, therefore many thousands of troops in Lincolnshire, but mostly in training. Despite attention to their welfare, soldiers serving on the home front were sadly neglected, a fact which was brought to people's attention by a letter published in the *Lincolnshire Star* on 26 December 1914, and signed by eight privates in the Brigg Detachment of the Home Service Battalion of the 5th Lincolnshires.⁵⁸ Headed: SOLDIERS' COMPLAINT, the men pointed out that while Foreign Service Battalions were:

inundated with tobacco, cigarettes, socks and comforts of every description - we have one shirt, two pair of socks and a sleeping cap, some small recognition of our services [would be appreciated].

Patriotism would be very acceptable at this time for the work we are doing here is more arduous and trying than the Foreign Service Corps is doing at present and of infinitely more use for the protection of the lives of people at home should the Germans ever land a force in England.

I might add also we are here for home service only, but every man cannot for various reasons go to the front much as we would like to.

The War Office tried to deal with problems associated with Home versus Foreign Service. It was pointed out in a report to the Secretary of State dated 29 September 1914, that Territorials had been formed to defend the country and this fact had been lost sight of by the GOC and by the force itself, which was being sacrificed to the idea of Imperial service abroad. The desire of Divisional Commanders and of the majority of those under them to get to the front had resulted in those unable to volunteer for foreign service being looked down on and neglected. Clothing and equipment had been taken from the home service trained men and given to recruits enlisted for foreign service. Consequently, home service men were unarmed, and the armed portion of the battalion was made up partly of trained men and partly of recruits. On 24 September 1914 the War Office reported on the shortage of training personnel, stating that the desire to focus on training foreign service men had resulted in home service men being neglected. A small percentage of training personnel had been detailed for home service units, but the standard was very low; only an average of approximately 70 to 75 per cent of trained men were available to take the field if required. Some had taken brief Musketry courses, spent days in camp, and had some drills. That was all.⁵⁹

HOME DEFENCE

Home Defence schemes were based on the theory that naval conditions would make it impossible for a hostile force of more than 70,000 men to reach British shores. Various air stations were established as a defence against invasion. Home Defence forces consisted originally of the fourteen Divisions and fourteen Mounted Brigades of the Territorial Force and the Special and Extra Special Reserve battalions. These were depleted by the despatch of part of the Territorial Force to stations abroad and then by replacing losses in the Expeditionary Force. The East Coast was defended by the Lincolnshire Yeomanry, whose first task it was. On 15 September, Bishop Hicks went to see Sir R. Aske, MP, who was in command of the East Yorkshires. He wrote: His men were guarding the shore from the Humber to the Wash and he was in constant touch by wire with the N. Sea Fleet.⁶⁰

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Military authorities recognized that Germany had worked out invasion plans and was laying mines in the North Sea on a definite system. Aircraft so often reported over England could be engaged in communicating with agents and Germany knew Britain could wear her out financially if the war dragged on. By late September it was considered advisable to review peacetime theories.

Although British Home Defence forces in September increased by hundreds of thousands of recruits, they did not add to the fighting strength at that time, and would not do so in the near future, for they were untrained and had no arms or ammunition. In fact, rifles would not be available for home service units until January and their full complement would not be completed for some months after that. Various National Archive maps show the distribution of the Territorial Troops for the defence of England, one for 14 days after mobilization, others for 28 September and 5 October.⁶¹ (Figs. 5) Lincolnshire was badly served by the Territorials. The main concentration of the Central forces was southeast of a line from the River Nene to Portsmouth. The Huntingdonshire Cyclist Battalion of the Central Force was stationed at Tetney, and six un-named Battalions were around the Humber protecting Hull. Another map shows the Cyclist Battalion moved to Hornsey, Yorkshire, and was then a local force, while the 5th East Yorkshire Cyclist Battalion was at Louth with a local force infantry brigade at Immingham.

HOME DEFENCE - THE VOLUNTEERS

A volunteer training battalion was formed early in the war as a home defence movement but the War Office was unenthusiastic about the scheme although those who joined would be considered combatants. Men of military age were refused admission. Nonetheless, in Grimsby 1,000 men joined a Volunteer Training Battalion. The work included training men who would later join the regular or territorial forces, the protection of the town during air raids, and guarding the shell factory.⁶²

In January 1915 there was a Meeting of the Central Association of the Volunteer Training Corps, at which Lord Desborough presided. There were over 700 corps, most only provisionally affiliated. Gosberton considered forming a corps to be affiliated to the Central Association. Donington also wanted one and asked if the drill instructor at Spalding could divide his time between the two villages. At a meeting held in December, Mr E.E. Welby-Everard wanted a platoon for Risegate, two or three from Donington, and from Quadring and Gosberton.⁶³

Later that month there was a discussion at Pinchbeck to decide whether to form a Volunteer Rifle Corps. Those present were warned there would be no proper military instructor because they were all wanted by War Office. Neither would there be any rifles. It would be 'a farce without arms, clothing or ammunition'. The Emergency Committee formed for the whole county of Lincoln had greater powers but was faced with the same problems. Pinchbeck's Corps could overlap the Emergency Committee. Mr Royce understood the War Office's reluctance to recognize the Training Corps. Two members who were special constables failed to turn up to a Committee meeting. One had to attend a market and the other's bicycle tyre was punctured. This indicated a lack of discipline. If invaded, the very best material must counter it. What standard of defence would this be with no arms? What sort of training could they have? Territorials required six months before they were fit to meet the enemy. The Vicar wondered how 20 or 30 men could be useful against an army, armed and ready to kill. The idea was dropped and an earnest appeal made for young men to join the colours.

Nonetheless, by the end of the war each county had a system of organisation and simultaneous drill for units of Volunteers and special constables were arranged where possible. There was a uniform cap and jacket, a grey green rainproof drill tunic and special badge. When the conditional clause was added to exemptions by the Tribunals, the VTC, then officially recognised as the 3rd Volunteer Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, grew to its greatest strength and the unit was armed and well-drilled.'

HOME DEFENCE EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

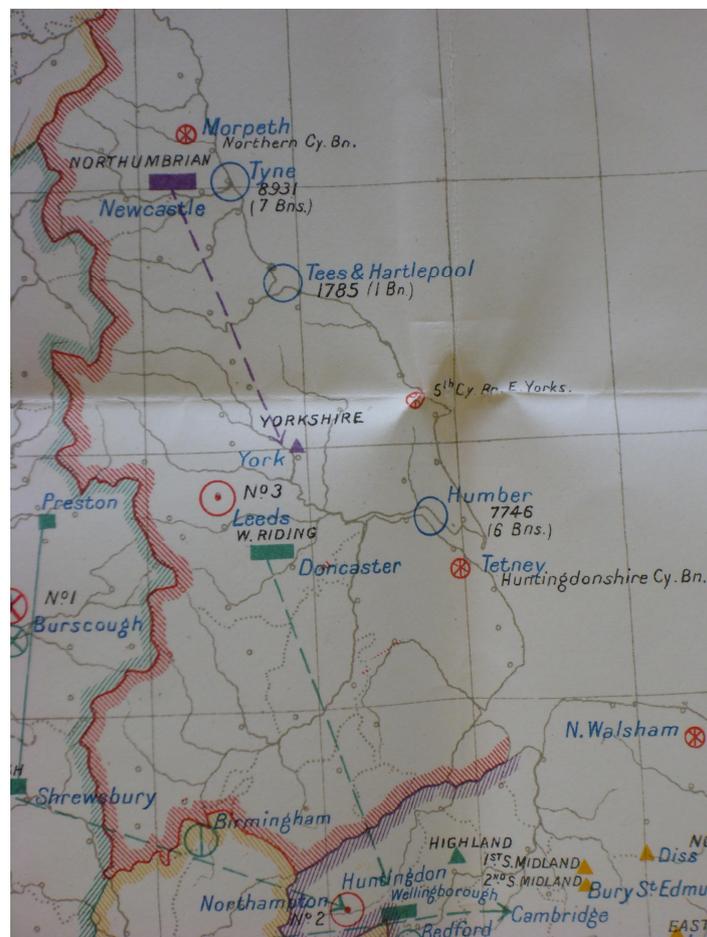
The Territorial Army had originally been formed as a home-based defence force, but as this idea had been neglected, new arrangements were needed to cope with events following an invasion. As part of the Home Defence Emergency Arrangements a scheme was designed to suspend telegraph and telephone communications in certain districts and for the Army Signal Service to take them over in certain sectors if invasion should occur. Secret maps were drawn dividing the eastern counties into zones. (Fig. 6) Lincolnshire from the Humber to the Wash was numbered 21 and shaded in such a way as to indicate relative importance. The Field Marshal Commanding in Chief, Home Forces, would decide the areas in which such communications were to be suspended, and would inform the War

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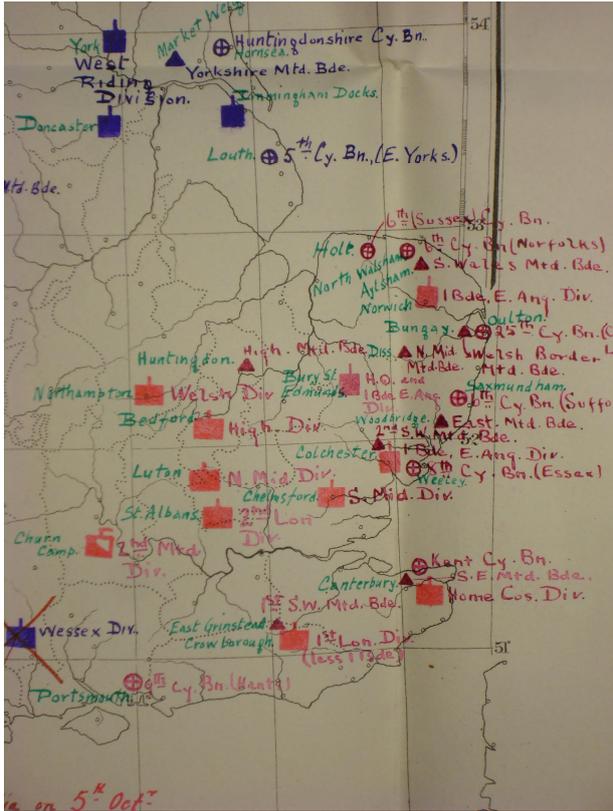
Office, which in turn would notify the GPO, who would then issue the necessary instructions to Postmasters and District Managers.

Certain telephone calls would be permitted where the only trunk lines available passed through a suspended area, but no private telegraph or phone communications from town to town within a suspended district would be allowed or calls entering or leaving a suspended area. The exception to this ruling was that people were allowed to summon the local fire brigade or ambulance. To prevent leakage of information of value to the enemy and to keep telephone lines for Naval, Military and Air Force traffic, phones would be entirely suspended within, into and out of the suspended area as far as civilians were concerned. Fire Brigade and Ambulance calls took priority except for calls classified as No. 1, which included Military, high ranking, Foreign Office, and War Cabinet. Fortunately it was not necessary to put these measures into effect.⁶⁴

Fig. 1 .EMPLOYMENT OF MILITARY FORCES: Defence Schemes (Code 53 (D)): Requirements for Home Defence in event of invasion involving redistribution of forces, reorganisation of territorials and possible use of Volunteer Defence Corps, WO 32/5273



Military



Map showing positions of Territorial Forces on 5.10.1914. WO32/5266



Military





Lincs to the Past reference: MLL 8934

Copy of a carte de visite portrait of Miss D.Mason of the Womens Auxiliary Army Corps, taken at the Officers Mess at Harrowby Camp; she wears a round brimmed hat, belted dress or overall with deep pockets, long sleeves and high neck, thick stockings and stout shoes.

From Lincs to the Past by courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council.

<http://www.lincstothePast.com/photograph/>

¹ J.R. Marshall, 'Lincolnshire in August 1914.' -Lincolnshire in August 1914 in *Lincolnshire Life* vol 24 no 5 Aug 1984, 18-19

1st Battalion August 1914 : in Portsmouth. Part of 9th Brigade, 3rd Division. - on line information.

² LA. TA 4/1. 4th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. War Diaries

³ Grantham Library. Envelope file. (Grantham Envelope). Belton Camp + Railway in WWI.

⁴ *Lincolnshire Chronicle*. 7.08.1914

⁵ LA. BNLW 4/4/8/1

⁶ <http://www.4-lom.com/sandall/> 11/06/2011

⁷ LA. 9-FANE 1/1/4/6

⁸ LA. Hett 1

⁹ <http://www.4-lom.com/sandall/> Accessed 30/08/2010 17:41

¹⁰ This is, of course, incorrect. 4 August was a Tuesday. Wednesday was the 5th.

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- ¹¹ LA. 9 -FANE 1/1/4/5. Fane War Diary Vol I. Twelve men left Fulbeck for the war. W.V. Fane, E. Royds, C. Baines, H. Cooling, Richard Dawson, Ted Hutchinson, Fred Farmer, Jack Farmer, Cyril King, Frank King, George Levesley, William Gilkes (the Fane's groom).
- ¹² LA. 9-FANE 1/1/4/14
- ¹³ LA. 9-FANE 1/1/4/19
- ¹⁴ Peter Chapman. *Grimsby's Own: the Story of the Chums*. Grimsby Evening Telegraph & the Hutton Press, 1991. 9
- ¹⁵ N.E.Lincs Library Service (Grimsby Library). 10th (S) Btn. Chums War Diary
- ¹⁶ Chapman. *Grimsby's Own*. 24
- ¹⁷ *Lincolnshire Standard*. 26.9.1914
- ¹⁸ Chapman. *Grimsby's Own*. 21
- ¹⁹ *The Lincolnshire Star*. 21.11.1914
- ²⁰ *Lincolnshire Standard*. 15.8.1914
- ²¹ David Bilton. *The Home Front in the Great War. Aspects of the Conflict, 1914 – 1918*. Leo Cooper, Barnsley, 2003. 12
- ²² Chapman. *Grimsby's Own*. 9
- ²³ *Spalding and Lincolnshire Standard*. 5.9.1914
- ²⁴ LA. 9-FANE 1/20
- ²⁵ LA. 9 FANE 1/1/4/6
- ²⁶ *Grantham Journal*. 17.10.1914.
- ²⁷ Nick Mansfield. 'Class Conflict and Village War Memorials, 1914-1924' in *Rural History*, vol 6. no 1. 71.
- ²⁸ *Lincolnshire Standard*. 31.10.1914
- ²⁹ *Lincolnshire, Boston & Spalding Free Press*. 18.08.1914
- ³⁰ *Boston Guardian and Lincolnshire Independent*. 3.10.1914
- ³¹ *Lincolnshire Standard*. 3.10.1914
- ³² *Skegness, Mablethorpe & Alford (SMA) News*. 25.11.1914
- ³³ *Lincolnshire Standard*. 26.09.1914
- ³⁴ LA. 9-FANE 1/1/4/17
- ³⁵ *Lincolnshire Standard*. 26.09.1914
- ³⁶ LA. 9 FANE 1/1/4/6 Vol II. The 2nd Battalion were in Bermuda in August and then moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia, returning to England on 3 October 1914. On arrival they were attached to the 25th Brigade in 8th Division and on 6 November 1914 they landed at le Havre.
- ³⁷ *Grantham Journal*. 14.9.1914
- ³⁸ *Times*. 17.4.1917
- ³⁹ *Grantham Journal*. 12.12.1914
- ⁴⁰ LA. 9-FANE 1/1/17
- ⁴¹ Harrowby camp was in the vicinity of Belton Lane, Harrowby Lane, Hill Avenue, New Beacon Road, Brittain Drive and Cherry Orchard.
- ⁴² *Grantham Journal*. 19.12.1914
- ⁴³ Grantham Library. Machine Gun Corps Magazine, undated, photocopied sheet p.14
- ⁴⁴ *Lincolnshire, Boston & Spalding Free Press*. 15.09.1915 (check year)
- ⁴⁵ *Grantham Journal*. 14.09.1914
- ⁴⁶ *Lincolnshire Standard*. 10.09.1914.
- ⁴⁷ *SMA News*. 10.07.1918
- ⁴⁸ *Hicks Diaries*. 677, 757, 1037, 1082, 988.
- ⁴⁹ *Grantham Journal*. 21.12.1914
- ⁵⁰ *Lincolnshire Star*. 26.12.1914
- ⁵¹ *Grantham Journal*. 19.12.1914
- ⁵² LA. Hett 1.
- ⁵³ Grantham Envelope files
- ⁵⁴ TNA. WO 32.5453. Signed: Caldwell, 25.09.1915.
- ⁵⁵ TNA. WO 104/Miscellaneous/266 (AG1)
- ⁵⁶ The Wartime Memories Project - The Great War - Machine Gun Corps.htm Accessed 19.08.2010
- ⁵⁷ *Times*. 21.7.1916
- ⁵⁸ *Lincolnshire Star*. 26.12.1914
- ⁵⁹ TNA. WO 32.5266
- ⁶⁰ *Hicks Diaries*: 554
- ⁶¹ TNA. WO 32.5266. 79/6073
- ⁶² *Grantham Journal*. 24.12.1914

⁶³ *Lincolnshire Standard*, 2.01.1915

⁶⁴ TNA. WO 33/880 also MUN 4/5355