

In 1914 the wife of the Captain of Deal Castle allowed the castle to be used as a store by the Voluntary Aid Detachment* and gave assistance with the setting up of the local VAD hospital. Deal suffered 37 air raids during the war and from October 1917 the basement of the castle keep was used as an air raid shelter.



Tank 4613 was presented to Deal and Welmer in recognition for the fund raising the communities had undertaken throughout the War. The tank, which had seen action in 1917, arrived at Deal Railway Station in August 1919 and was driven through the streets to stand just outside the South Eastern Hotel where a large ceremony took place.



Crowds gathered on Deal seaport, the first time in the background, on Peace Day, 19 July 1919. A noon a battalion of Marines, lined up on the promenade from King Street to Deal Castle, fired a feu de joie - fire of joy. When the signal was given the Marines lifted from the right to the left of the line, repeating the exercise with two more volleys.



Eight men, who attended lodge meetings here, were to be during the First World War. One of these was James Mochman, a Royal Marine, killed in May 1915 at Gallipoli. Members of Lodge 784 contributed to various funds during the war, including the War Distress Fund and the Relief of the Belgians Fund.



There are records of three of William and Clara's sons serving in the War, two of whom served in the Army and one in the Royal Navy. They were to lose their youngest son Robert James, who died on the Somme in August 1916 having only been in France for a week. Both their other sons survived the War.



Arnold Enridge sent his sweetheart, Jess, this postcard in January 1917 from somewhere in France. As you can see the postcard has been censored, but Arnold has mentioned there were many 'chaps' from Deal passing by his location, 'as' whose parents ran the 'Pier Arms', 'marked Arnold in June 1918.



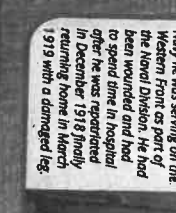
Unlike other local towns the public were still allowed to use the pier and it was an important attraction for holiday makers. Visitors could watch the vessels which had to wait offshore to be inspected before they could pass up the Channel. Angling competitions were held for wounded soldiers and children.



Just after midnight on 5 May 1918, two German Naval men, dressed as soldiers, were captured whilst trying to escape to Zebrugga from Deal beach. They and three others had escaped from Lartihill camp on Salisbury Plain in April and had travelled along the coast at night to avoid detection.



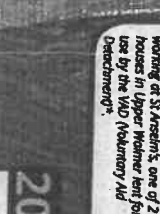
Ermo Baker received a letter informing her that her son Henry James had been taken prisoner by the Germans in April 1918. Although he was in the Navy he was serving on the Western Front as part of the Naval Division. He had been wounded and had to spend time in hospital after he was repatriated in December 1918 finally returning home in March 1919 with a damaged leg.



This was an important venue for various concerts for wounded soldiers during the War. It was also a 'black' giving the men stationed in the town somewhere to go where they could meet up, play billiards and a place to write letters home.



Dore and Edith Thomson of Deal shared a full time voluntary role of nursing message and electrical therapy between them, as well as looking after their sick mother. They were working at St Austins, one of 2 houses in Upper Welmer land for use by the VAD Voluntary Aid Detachment*.



The first Belgian refugees arrived in Deal by train from Folkestone - where 30,000 landed in one weekend - and the Drill Hall was opened for volunteers to provide more than a thousand meals. In September 1914, a club was opened there for the use of the men of the 1st Naval Brigade.



(NAD) formed before the War of members of the Red Cross and members of the 14 Joint Ambulances. These men and women were mainly volunteers and served in various roles including nursing, as is either nurses, cooks and drivers.



8 Golden Street, Edith Appleton

Where Edith lived as a child, Edith was a trained nurse who, in 1914, volunteered for Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Edith arrived in France on 10 October 1914 and she was demobilised on 22 December 1919. Edith kept an amazing diary throughout her service. <http://munsnuthefront.com>



9 15 The Marina, Deal Angling Club 1919 (was North Deal Life Boat Station)

During the War there were lifeboat stations at Deal, Welmer and Longwood. There were many calls on the lifeboat and in November 1916 they rescued 164 people from the Godwin. Some in four days. However, they were unable to reach the guard ship which caught fire in 1916, fortunately the crew managed to escape.



13 11 High Street, Street photography of 1914 by Henry Jones

L. Glenorchy Cook had a photographic studio at 119 High Street. Deal where servicemen based in Deal would have their pictures taken to send home to their families as a keepsake. Private Simon Rogers of the Highland Light Infantry was one of these men.



14 St George's Church, High Street, Deal

A memorial cross stands in front of St George's Church to the memory of Sub Lieutenant Arthur Wolstone St Clair 'Isabel' RWR VC and his brother Second Lieutenant John Theodore St Clair 'Isabel', both sons of the vicar of St George's Church and his wife. It also lists the men of the congregation and the parish who died in the conflict.



15 Deal Maritime and Local History Museum

Within the museum is the original scale block which was used during the War to scale the mules that carried ornaments out to the batteries defending the coastline, on the south side of the north of Deal.



18 22 High Street - the Kentish Telegram

The offices of the Kentish Telegram where the paper was published by Henry Thomas Pain every Wednesday. Newspapers played an important role as the main source of information for regulations published and the happenings of the War. Paper shortages in the War meant pages were reduced and families missed the paper.



19 2 High Street Lloyds Bank

The Bank Manager during WW1 was Walter Hemmings, who had seen the bank. He had to deal with customers who were unable to access their money due to the banks being closed by the Government for a week when War was declared.



Parking - on street and Middle Street CT14 6ES

Please note that some footpaths are narrow and uneven.



A black and white photograph showing a row of terraced houses in a residential street. The houses are multi-story buildings with visible windows and doors. The street is paved, and there are some trees or bushes in the foreground. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early morning.

Credits for nearby places: 1) 1614DEA Courtesy A Paine; 2) 1608DEA Courtesy A Paine; 3) 1607NEA Courtesy A Paine; 4) 1622NEA Courtesy A Paine; 5) 1629NEA Courtesy A Paine.

Kent in

Blue Trail

**Revealing the history of local people,
places and events**

This trail was developed in partnership with Alan Buckman, Judith Gaunt, Steve Goodsell, Suzanne Green, Shella Harris, Jenny Keaveney, Dick Robinson, Michael Rogers, Peter Rose, Colin Varrall, Jenny Wall, David White, Deal Maritime and

Please respect the privacy of residents and use the trail in a considerate manner to others.

Our maps and points of interest are provided for historical information only & walking the trails is at your own risk. Please see the website for walking guidance, directions, full disclaimer, to discover more information and to take part in the quiz.
www.kennwwt.com



The QR code below takes you to the 100 index for 100 years ago, otherwise visit the website for a direct link.



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