



Home Front - The War Effort at home, playscript

Although they may not have really understood what was going on in the trenches of France and elsewhere, the people of Wolverton and New Bradwell tried to do their bit for the war effort.

Nellie Abbey: Used to go to Northampton, entertaining the troops I did, in 1914. Used to go there entertaining the troops and they loved it. I had some jolly good girls and they nearly went mad - throwing food at them. They come on with the flags behind them and then they worked the Union Jack - proper Union Jack they did. I was very proud of that. Oh they nearly went dotty over that at Northampton.

Viva Chappill: Tickford Abbey was either a convalescent home or a hospital for soldiers. And there was a committee of women - my mother amongst them - went over there as auxiliaries. She'd got three children to look after - she wasn't trained as a nurse but she used to go rolling bandages and that sort of thing. And I used to knit socks for them, even at that tender age.

Lilly Dytham: At school we were asked to send eggs to the wounded soldiers and we wrote our names on them. We had to write our names and addresses on the eggs and then the letters came back from these soldiers who received the eggs and I've still got those letters.

Trooper Cox: Dear Miss Wildman, Having had an egg for breakfast - and I may add that I enjoyed it - I am very pleased to thank you for sending same to our wounded and sick Tommies. I am sure you will endeavour to continue to send more, as I saw several with your name on them. Well, it was one of those eggs you never get in an argument with, as it could not speak one word of any language. So it said nothing to me, and of course I consumed it on the spot.

Well, once more I wish you luck and joy in your occupation and should very much like you to send me a special one. Believe me to be yours, in anticipation of receiving that special egg. Trooper Reginald Gordon Cox 2286, First Royal Devon Yeomanry, (late Dardenelles.)

Express Reporter: Blackberry collection wanted - tons of blackberries. The Ministry of Food states that owing to the increased demands of the Army and Navy, and the failure of the fruit crop generally, it is absolutely necessary to obtain more blackberries for jam. The British Forces consume 1.5 million pounds per day, and to this must be added that required for the American Army, and the relatively small quantity allotted for the civilian population. The collection is not confined to schoolchildren but contributions at the Government price are received from anybody.

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