



Military: Hawtin Mundy volunteers for the Army, interview

As soon as the War was declared, many young men from Wolverton and New Bradwell rushed to join up. But why?

- Looking with the benefit of hindsight 100 years later, this enthusiasm seems difficult to understand.

Hawtin Mundy was then an apprentice coach body-maker in the Railway Works. Here are his words from an interview made in 1980:

"When the War broke out, the youth of the nation simply flocked to join the colours because we was taught at school that the sun never set on the British Empire, and Britannia ruled the waves, we was really king ...of the world at that time.

We was taught that there was no other country in the world that could overtake us. Our feelings of joining the army at that time was more of a novelty - you wanted to get away and see what war was like, to get away and fight. You became a local hero. You looked forward to it.

It was at the back of your mind that the war would be quickly over before you had an opportunity to get there, so of course you all flocked to the colours. Course it was obvious in our case, we was all out together and it was the glamour and you wanted to get there and in my case especially, I had to leave at 21, because you finished your apprenticeship.

You finished your apprenticeship in the Wolverton Railways Works which meant that you had to leave. I was 20 years of age then, so it was just automatic because I should go there then instead of waiting till I was 21."