

ON THE BRINK: ACROSS THE HAWTHORN HEDGE

LIFE AT HOME

Across the hawthorn hedge the noise of bugles. Flares across the night. Somewhere on the laugh was a prison ship for Germans. A cage across their sight.

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The relatively small British Expeditionary Force reached Mons, in southern Belgium, on 22nd August 1914. Men from Counties Antrim and Londonderry were there from the beginning of the War.

Back home, life went on. People went to work. There was sport, music and dancing. However the War, and home support for it, began to affect every aspect of life.

SUPPORT FOR THE TROOPS

There was enthusiastic support for the war effort in towns and villages. Local organisations raised money and gathered supplies to send to the troops.

In Ballinacree, the Ulster Cavalry organised a committee to solicit their donations to the Prince of Wales National Red Cross. May Alice Young of Gargary, Carrigrohane, was president of the 'Society' and her husband, Captain William Young, was a member of the Royal Irish Rifles.

Left: Queen Alexandra's Central Postal Directory in France in 1914.

Below: The Ulster Red Cross and Hospital in 1914. The large and small images show the original building, during the war, and the new building, after the war.



The Portlough Branch of the Irish Women's Association to Aid Irish Regiments and Progress of War requested householders to subscribe a penny a week to aid for the boxes of goods sent to prisoners of war.



Left: The work by 'Women's War Work' in 1914 to help the war effort. The work was done by the women of the Portlough Branch of the Irish Women's Association to Aid Irish Regiments and Progress of War.



"Ballymena Observer" TOBACCO FUND.

STATE CONTROL



Below: Florence Blomfield returns back home to her country for the war. She had an education in the City of London.

Mobilising the home front brought the war to the point where daily life and local economies had to be controlled in the name of the war effort. The Ulster Red Cross had been formed, organising an Ulster Red Cross to help at a public meeting. This was followed by The Defence of the Realm Act.

As the War went on, more restrictions were introduced. Public meeting hours were reduced. It is 'no trading order' laid down that one could buy drink for another person.

Left: Robert in Ballinacree (above) under military occupation. The work was done by the women of the Portlough Branch of the Irish Women's Association to Aid Irish Regiments and Progress of War.

Below: Robert in Ballinacree (above) under military occupation. The work was done by the women of the Portlough Branch of the Irish Women's Association to Aid Irish Regiments and Progress of War.



At the end of the War, it was necessary to take down some of the military orders in public places.

Left: Robert in Ballinacree (above) under military occupation. The work was done by the women of the Portlough Branch of the Irish Women's Association to Aid Irish Regiments and Progress of War.

It also empowered the government to try any civilian for any offence under the Act.

Take any order or regulation.

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Life goes on

Despite the War, everyday life carried on. In Ballymena, a new Catholic Hall was opened, currently contained in the Protestant Hall and the Picture House show large audiences. Musical and Dramatic Societies were held in the Victoria Hall, Lincis. Sporting events also continued, but under their activities to support the War.



Right: Children continued to help at the Home Front. The work was done by the women of the Portlough Branch of the Irish Women's Association to Aid Irish Regiments and Progress of War.

Programme also helping in the health field. The work was done by the women of the Portlough Branch of the Irish Women's Association to Aid Irish Regiments and Progress of War.



He's down!

From the 'outlet', news from the Front provided constant reminders of the conflict. The phrase 'he's down' was heard when a man was reported dead or missing.

Below: Robert in Ballinacree (above) under military occupation. The work was done by the women of the Portlough Branch of the Irish Women's Association to Aid Irish Regiments and Progress of War.



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