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Abbey Experiences of World War I

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Creating My
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Rations During World War I



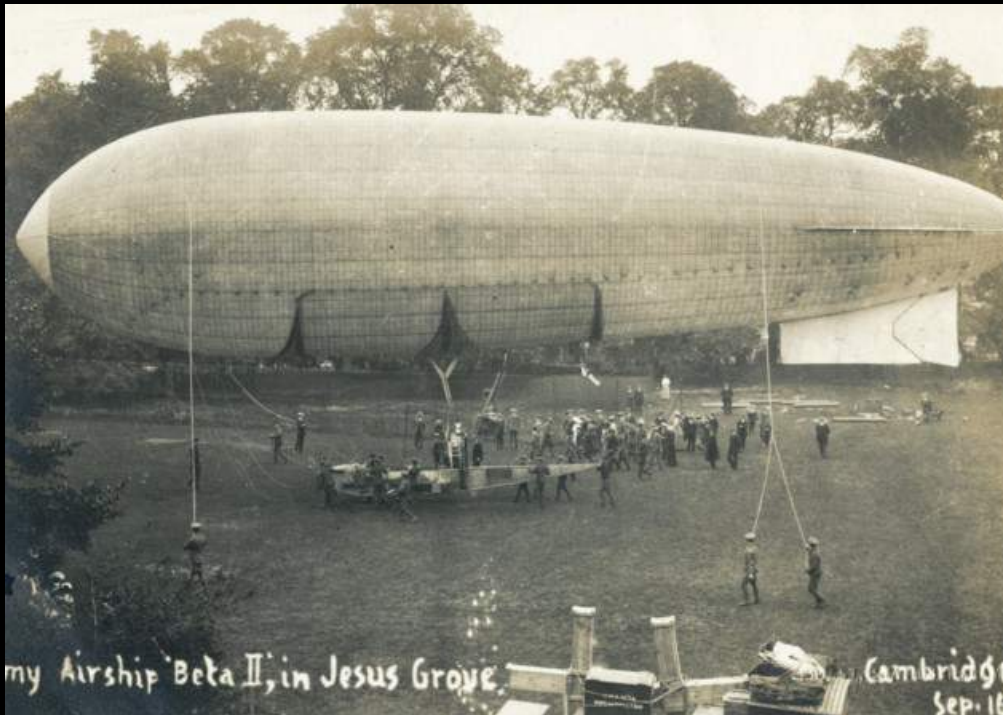
Queue for potatoes during
WWI

Food supplies continued to get more scarce as the war went into its third and fourth years.

Butchers had to shut down due to a shortage of meat and young boys and girls were sent out to the shops to queue for hours for basic goods such as potatoes.

Children also joined the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides to offer help in their local community.

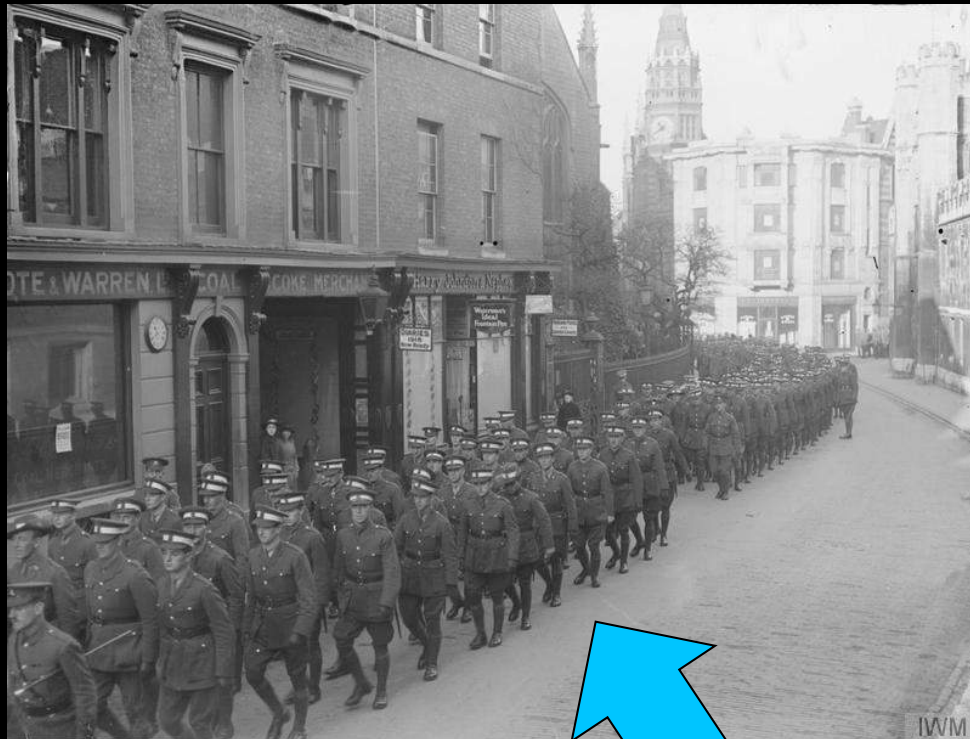
Blackouts in Cambridge



In January 1915 a blackout was introduced between the hours of 5pm and 7:30am, aiming to protect Cambridge from the threat of Zeppelin airship bombing.

The alarm did sound once in October 1917, but the city was never attacked.

Men from Every Walk of Life



Men from different walks of life and a variety of jobs made up the 'Cambs' regiment.

These included farm owners, lawyers, accountants, dentists, booksellers, builders, college fellows and architects.

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The 'Cambs' Regiment
Marching through the city

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The Cambridge Regiment's First Casualty- Corporal Noble Dewey



The regiments first casualty was Corporal Noble Dewey who was killed in France on 4th March 1915.

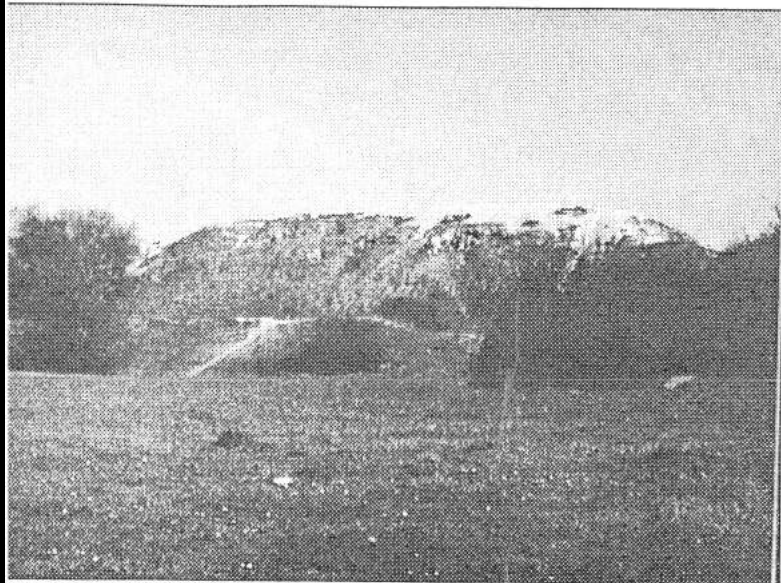
Corporal Noble Dewey' s last letter to his mother

*“Dear Mother,
Just a line to let you know that I am still well. We had another fine Sunday. We have changed our billets and moved about ten miles up country and billeted in another farm. We are in sound of the guns. I suppose I shall be there in a few days. Many thanks for the sweets, they are very scarce about here. It is still very cold, but we have got plenty of straw, so we sleep warm. You ought to see us in our skin coats. We look like a lot of teddy bears...”*

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Coldham's Common Part in World War I

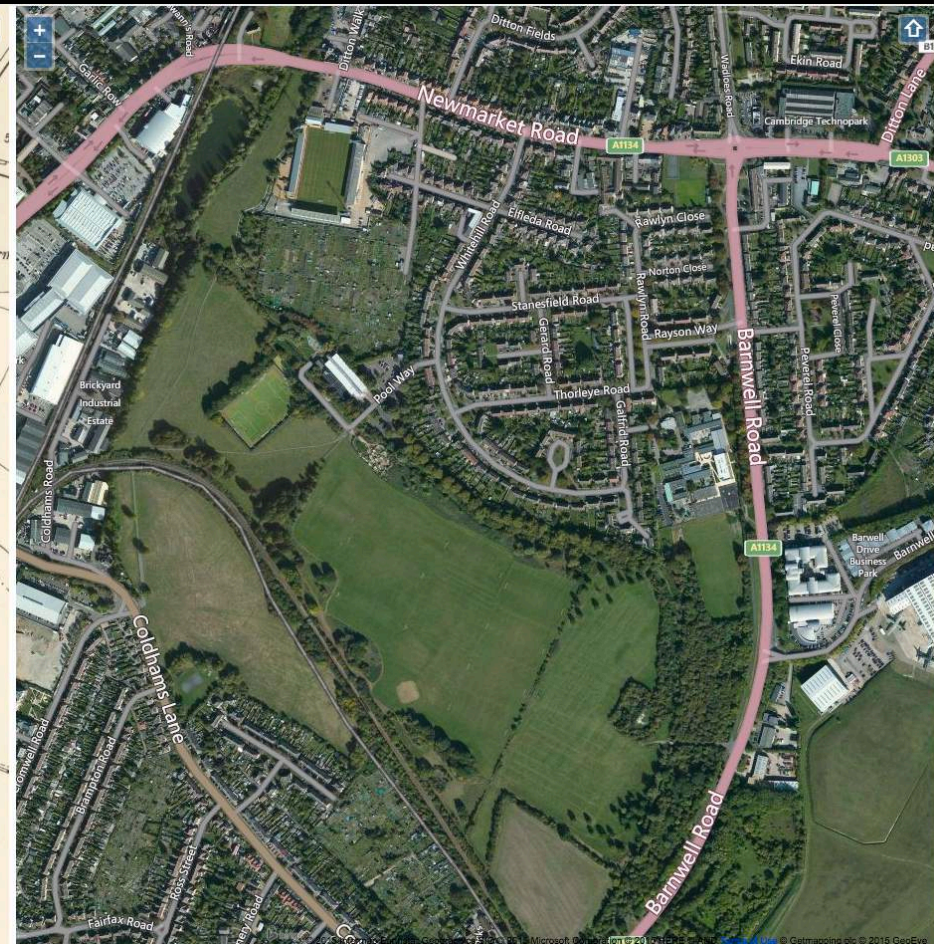


*Coldham's
Common, the
rifle butts,
remnant of the
old shooting
range. C.1980.*

The eastern edge of Coldham's Common was used as a shooting range to train troops who would then be sent to fight the war against Germany.

The Common was also used as a camp for soldiers on their way to the battlefields in France and Belgium.

Can you find the Rifle Range and your school?



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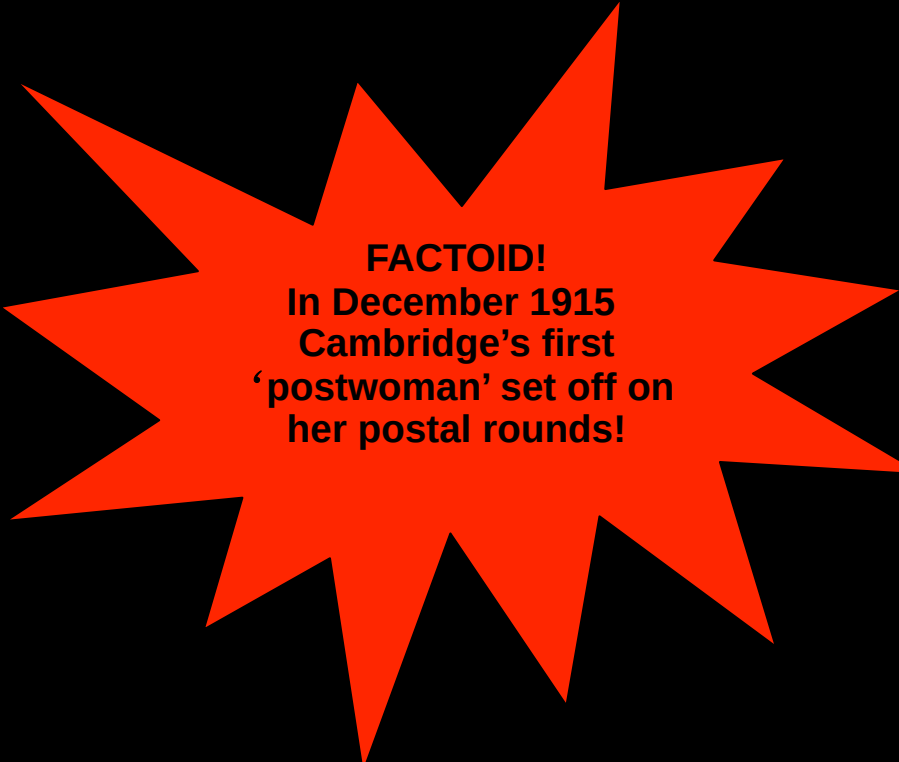
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Women During Wartime

With men called up to the front, the women of Cambridge took on the responsibility of new, unfamiliar occupations.

This included supporting the war effort by working in factories and taking up other jobs that men would have previously done.



FACTOID!
In December 1915
Cambridge's first
'postwoman' set off on
her postal rounds!

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The War is Over



When the war was over in 1918 the bells of Great St Mary's rang out across the city and local citizens rejoiced.

The Roll of honour at Cambridge Guildhall names the 1,414 local men who lost their lives in battle, a sacrifice that the city has never forgotten.

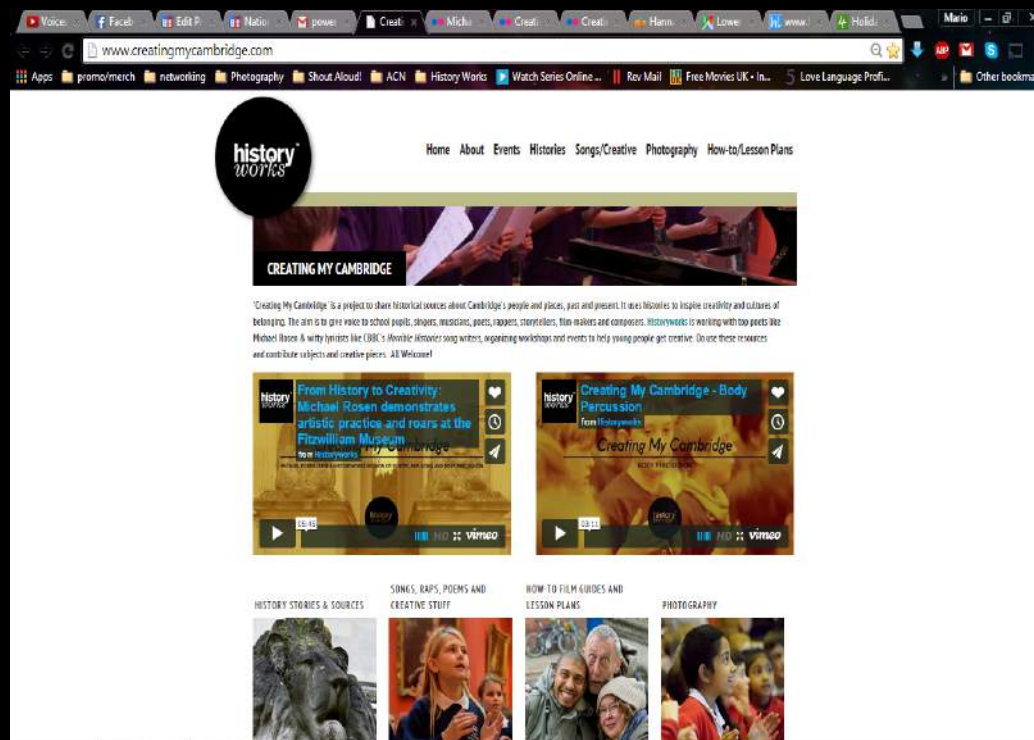
The residents of Cambridge experienced violence and hunger during the First World War, whilst local women and children had to take on lots of new responsibilities.

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