

## Chapter 7: Local and Regional Events

Although the fighting in World War 1 was relatively distant, there were a number of things which happened locally and regionally which reflected the conflict that was going on. For example, on a day in November 1917, grandad noted that an airship passed over at around 1pm.

However, most of the events that occurred related to patriotism, recruiting and fundraising. Grandad had noted that the King and Queen had visited on 25 June 1914, before the onset of war. The King and Queen visited [Nottingham](#) on the 24<sup>th</sup> and they went to Hucknall, Mansfield and Shirebrook on the 25<sup>th</sup>.



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Top - postcard showing the King and Queen on their visit to Nottingham on 24 June 1914  
Above - photograph of visit of the King and Queen to Mansfield on 25 June 1914

Grandad documented a number of recruiting events for the military. In May 1915, he noted that a Sherwood Forester came to Kirkby to encourage recruiting and, in June the same year, a military band came recruiting. In October, he noted that 15 soldiers from [Clipstone](#) barracks came recruiting.

Grandad also recorded details of a fundraising patriotic fair opened by the Duchess of Portland in July 1917.<sup>1</sup> This may have been linked to a larger patriotic fair held in Titchfield Park in Mansfield somewhat earlier in June 1917. The Mansfield fair was attended by around 15,000 local residents and raised around £8,000. A similar fair in Nottingham had raised over £30,000.<sup>2</sup> Grandad recorded that the Kirkby fair raised £1,200. He also noted that there was also a Patriotic Fair in Sutton in July 1917.

In the early months of 1915, a large army camp was erected on moorland at [Clipstone](#) near Mansfield. This consisted of hundreds of wooden huts which served as a place for soldiers to live and train before leaving to participate in the war. The first men posted there were five thousand Royal Fusiliers. It was them who gave Clipstone the nickname "*Land of Chaos*". This was partly because they had to march four miles in deep mud to reach the camp and partly because it was still under construction. The camp featured frequently in the local press. Articles documented the constant influx of soldiers and the problems they faced, e.g. through lack of huts etc. At any one time there might have been 30,000 soldiers or more at Clipstone. Soldiers both training and marching were a regular sight around the camp. Now, the area is covered with housing estates, schools and other local amenities. Virtually nothing of the camp remains.

The Parkin family were also involved in other smaller fundraising events. For example, in December 1914, grandad noted that Olive gave a concert in Pinxton in aid of "*the Belgians*" and that the concert tea raised just over £6. In November 1915, another concert was held that raised £3-4. The family also provided hospitality for military personnel periodically.



Postcard of Titchfield Park, Mansfield

<sup>1</sup> This event was described by Edith Seanson in her book(let) "*I Remember*" in more detail (pp25-26). She noted that there was a decorated dray from Bourne chapel with the theme of "*Roses*".

<sup>2</sup> In Chapter 4 entitled "*1917 Seeing it Through*" of "*Mansfield in the Great War*"



52. The area originally known as Water Meadows (a name recently revived in the town) belonged to the Duke of Portland, who gave it to the townspeople in 1914 to celebrate the coming of age of his son the Marquis of Titchfield – hence the park's name. This card by C. and A.G. Lewis shows the tank which arrived by train, having been sent as a thankyou for the large sums of money raised in Mansfield on national savings during the 1914-18 war. The tank, no.255, was put on show in the park after a ceremony in May 1919. This postcard was not actually used until March 1931: "You go through this park to Mansfield, very pretty now with the spring flowers", wrote the sender.

*News cutting of what appears to be a postcard showing a tank in Titchfield Park in Mansfield in 1919. The reference to Water Meadows is interesting. Grandad referred to this park as Mansfield Meadows (see Chapter 44)*