

production



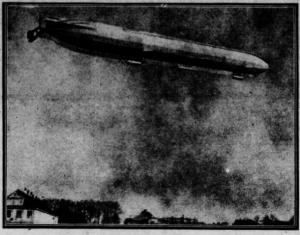
ZEPPELIN ATTACK ON

BOMBS DROPPED IN THE DARK.

FIVE DEATHS AT YARMOUTH AND LYNN.

SANDRINGHAM'S ESCAPE.

CRAFTS SAFE RETURN TO GERMANY.



LATEST FROM JOFFRE.

BUT SOON RECOVER, AND SEIZE GERMAN GROUND.

THE EASTERN CAMPAIGN.

FRENCH TROOPS GET A SHOCK. GERMAN ARTILLERY SILENCED.

INTENSE BOMBARDMENT OF A

THE LUSITANIA

GUARANTEED DAILY NETT SALE MORE THA

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1915.

THE HUNS SINK THE







was officially announced yesterday that the German perates had tarpulated and sank cluding many prominent American citizens. This latest appalling crosse of the states gareful

MAMMOTH CUNARDER SUNK ON IRISH COAST

atest Reports Say All Her 1400 Passen-gers Were Taken Off In Safety By Small Boats.

WERE WARNED BEFORE

THEY LEFT NEW YORK

Fleet Was Struck at 2:33 This Af-rantic Wireless Calls Were Sent



SHELLING LINE FIX DIFFERENCES

L TRY TO BLOW BRITISH OUT OF YERES

CERTIFIED CIRCULATION LARGER THAN ANY OTHER PICTURE TAX THE LARGE SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1915 GIANT CUNARDER CROWDED WITH PASSENGERS CALLOUSLY SUNK

WITHOUT WARNING OFF THE IRISH COAST.

Clear Out The Germans, Say The People.



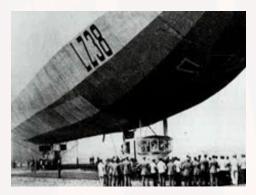
Zeppelin Air Raid – Ipswich 29th April 1915

DORA - Defence of the Realm Act

Wartime regulations gradually introduced to control civilian life and passed four days after the start of the war.

- Licensing trade conserve brewing ingredients for food and increase industrial output shutting early and in the afternoon
- Censorship of official war news, newspapers and letters from front
 - Ban on invisible ink when writing abroad
 - Nigh time blackouts
 - Daylight saving time more useable hours of work
- Restriction on aliens, regardless of whether they came from allied, neutral of enemy countries. Ipswich Docks were prohibited to aliens. Registering and later internment of enemy aliens.
- Activities no longer permitted included flying kites, starting bonfires, buying binoculars, feeds wild birds bread and discussing military matters

German Zeppelin airships starting attacking Great Britain in 1915. The first on Ipswich happened on 29th April 1915. At around midnight the Zeppelin LZ38 dropped incendiary bombs over the town. (See attached)



There was relatively little damage but the threat from the air must have put residents in absolute fear of their lives. However, there are also accounts of people waking their children to go outside and watch in wonder as the Zeppelin flew over the town. Fear but also excitement!

Even though approaching Zeppelins were detected over the North Sea by Naval Intelligence, there were no night-time air raid warnings. However, during raids the electricity was often cut.



It was said that you could hear the dull rumble of the Zeppelin engines overhead but sometimes the Zeppelin would cut its engines and float silently, so it could not be detected. Often Anti-aircraft gunfire could be heard from Felixstowe.

The air raids brought the war to the home front. They intruded in the bedroom, the most private space of all. And thus, they had quite an effect on fashion.

Bedclothes are among most intimate of garments. But with the advent of night-time raids, these private fashions were thrust suddenly into the public sphere when people had to evacuate their homes at a moment's notice.

Zeppelin Air Raids – Fashion

As the bombings continued, distinct trends took hold. "Pyjamas," as the Brits called them—a loose-fitting set of jacket and pants—became especially popular. Women in trousered attire of any kind was a new phenomenon in 1915. One fashion editor stated,

"I do want a little zep scare, so that I can wear them," she confessed about her black silk pjamas. "Of course I don't want anyone to be killed."





Anti-German Riots in Ipswich

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In addition to the horror and excitement of the Zeppelin raid over Ipswich on 29th April 1915 another horror occurred, which seemed to galvanise anti-German feelings in Ipswich and around the World.

On 7 May 1915 the Lusitania – one of the largest, fastest and most luxurious transatlantic passenger liners of its day – was hit by a German torpedo and sunk as it sailed into the Irish Sea. 1,198 people were drowned. The culprit was a German U-boat.





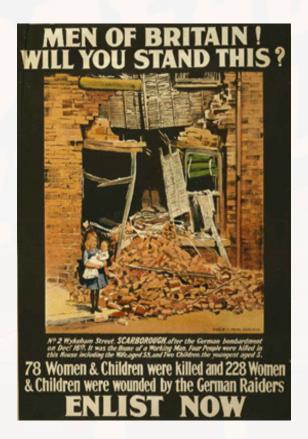
The East Anglian Daily Times (17th May 1915) described what happened in Ipswich

'Stone throwing was witnessed in Carr Street, Ipswich during the dark hours of Saturday night and again on Sunday night, the object being a large establishment carried on by Mr Scheuermann, butcher, who is naturalised in England and whose son fought in the British Army during the South African Campaign.'

'On Sunday evening, a noisy crowd assembled and assumed a menacing attitude...uniformed police strongly backed by sturdy special constables, speedily got the crowd on the move and in a short time more drastic measurers were adopted, the military authorities supplying the necessary display of force to effectively disperse the assemblage'

Words, phrases and names pertaining to be German became taboo. In 1915 for the first time, the German Ocean was referred to the North Sea. German Shepherds were renamed Alsatians and the King changed their German surname from Saxe Coburg and Gotha to Windsor. This anti-German sentiment was fuelled by propaganda.

Anti-German Propaganda









British Red Cross Gippeswyk Isolation (Measles) Hospital Commandant Miss Mary Caroline Coulcher C.B.E.

FORE	NAME:
Mary	Caroline

SURNAME: Coulcher C.B.E.

ADDRESS:

Beechholme Ipswich

SERVICE FROM: 07/02/1911

SERVICE TO: Still serving

HOSPITAL:

VAD Hospital, Gippeswyke Hall, Ipswich, Broadwater Hospital, Belstead Rd, Ipswich

RANK AT ENGAGEMENT:

See over

DATE OF ENGAGEMENT:

07/02/1911

PAY AT ENGAGEMENT:

Voluntary

RANK AT TERMINATION:

See over

DATE OF TERMINATION:

Still serving

PAY AT TERMINATION:

Voluntary

PARTICULARS OF DUTIES:

See over

WHOLE OR PART TIME:

Whole time

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Lady District Superintendent S.J.A.B. No. 10 Eastern District Commandant Suffolk /22; Acting Commandant Suffolk/24 Hon Treasurer & Secretary Ipswich Centre St. J.A.A From 21/10/1914 to 12/02/1919 Commandant of Broadwater Hospital Ipswich From 20/03/1915 to 06/09/1915 Comdt Gippeswyck (Isolation) Hospital Ipswich

COMMISSION:

Suffolk

HONOURS AWARDED: TAT THE AVENUE THEATRE, IPSWICH O.B.E. C.B.E.



Miss Mary Caroline Coulcher C.B.E.

VAD CARDS:



Surname Coulcher DBF., C.B.E. HOCK 25 JUL 1919	
Surname Lowlehes 085, C.B.E. Heck 5 JUL 1910	
Christian Names Mary Caroline (Me., Mrs. or Miss)	
Permanent Address: Beechlolme	
1 powieh	
Date of Engagement 7. 2. 11 Rank see over. Pay Voluntary	
Date of Termination still serving Rank Pay -	
Particulars of Duties Dee New	
Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served whole time	
Previous engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where	
Honours awarded O.B.E., C.B.E.	

PERIOD OF SERVICE, Ftc.
From 7.2.11 To still Description or Suffelk
Lady District Superintendent S. J. A.B No 10 Eastern District
Commandant Sufforte 22 : acting Commandant Suffolk/24
Hon Treasurer + Secretary Howich Centre St J. A.A.
From 21. 10. 14 to 12. 2. 19 Commandant of Broadwater Hobital
From 21. 10. 14 to 12. 2. 19 Commandant of Broadwater Hopital - 20. 3. 15 6. 9. 15 Commandant of Broadwater Hopital Hopital
1 power ch

www.britishredcross.org.uk

Miss Mary Caroline Coulcher C.B.E. - Timeline

In 1915, Miss Mary Coulcher was 63 years old and a spinster.

Born 1852 Rickinghall Superior, Suffolk. Daughter of Lynn Regis, Norfolk-born Rector George Coulcher and his wife Gt. Yarmouth-born Jane Sarah (nee Hawlayne. Daughter of Admiral Charles S. J. Hawlayne).

1861 Census: St. Margaret's Church Rectory, Wattisfield, Suffolk. With parents; 1 brother; 1 visitor; and 3 servants.

1871 Census: 127 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich. At the home of maternal Aunt Eliz. Mary Hawlayne ("Daughter of Late Admiral"); with "Rector's Widow" mother; and 2 servants. Mary's father had died on 19 December 1863.

1880: Began acting as Hon. Local Secretary S.J.A.A. Ipswich Centre.

1881 Census: 127 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich. With widow mother ("Head"); and two servants.

1891 Census: 127 Woodbridge Road, Ipswich. With widow mother ("Head"); and two servants.

1901 Census: Beechholme, Ipswich. With widow mother ("Head"); visitor Margaret G. Brown (Hospital Nurse); and five servants.

1902: Lady of Grace Order of St. John Jerusalem 1904: Lady Supervisor, St. John Ambulance Brigade.

1911 Census: Beechholme, Ipswich. Living alone; with four servants.



1911: Coronation Medal. Vice President of the British Red Cross.

1914: Service Medal St John Ambulance Brigade 1909, with Bar.

1915: Lady District Supervisor, St. John Ambulance Association.

1918: Order of the British Empire 4th Class.

1925, 15 Jun: Mary Caroline Coulcher "of Beecholme Ipswich spinster died.

12 - 14 OCT AT THE AVENUE THEATRE, IPSWICH

Extracts from Diss Express, 23 October 1914 [sic]:

"WOUNDED SOLDIERS AT IPSWICH.

There was big crowd of spectators both in and outside the station; Captain Francis Ward, M.D., R.A.M.C, was present with a detachment of his men, while St. John Ambulance men and nurses were in strong force, the former with stretchers and the latter with gifts for the wounded, for Miss Coulcher had met with a liberal response to her appeal the previous day for cigarettes and fruit for the wounded.

First came the "sitting up" cases, to the number of thirty-six. Some of the men who were wounded in the leg were bootless, and limped painfully along with each other's assistance. But they were all extremely cheerful, and were obviously pleased to receive presents of cigarettes and matches from Miss Coulcher and her nurses, and they were soon puffing away gaily. As they neared the crowd on the platform and outside they were greeted with ringing cheers. Far more painful to watch was the removal from the train of the stretcher cases, to the number of forty, some of these being very obviously severe. Others did not look so desperately ill, and they, too, puffed away at the cigarettes given them contentedly enough, and waved their hands to the crowds who loudly cheered them

Miss Mary Caroline Coulcher, CBE

Commandant, Miss Mary Coulcher was in charge of Gippeswyk Isolation Hospital and the larger Broadwater Hospital on Belstead Rd.

A Rector's daughter born in Suffolk, Miss Coulcher devoted her life to the caring of others. She became Vice President of the British Red Cross and Lady District Supervisor of the St John's Ambulance Association. After the war, she was awarded an OBE.

In April 1915, Miss Coulcher was a spinster aged 63, living with her widowed mother.

She died unmarried in 1925.

VAD Nurse, Miss Maud Lambert

Maud was born in Pakenham, Suffolk, and the daughter of a large farm owner. She lived at the Olde Hall Farm with her extended family and a servant. She became a VAD nurse at the outbreak of war and worked at British Red Cross hospitals all over the county. She was 26 years old whilst working at Gippeswyk Isolation Hospital.

She died aged 54 in 1953 and never married.

Miss Lily Haggar

Records for a Miss Lily Haggar are inconclusive; so the character was developed from Nellie Pages recollection of growing upon Mount Street, Ipswich during the First World War. (see Kindred Spirits Blog Dec. 2010) and Lily's character is based on her adopted sister. Lily was adopted by Granny Nora, and lived at 9 Mount Street, adopted Mother, Marjory and sister, Lizzie and brother, Edgar. Nellie's father and brother Charlie were overseas fighting in the war.

In 1915, Lily was 21 years old. She had trained as a Red Cross Nurse and started working in Gippeswyk (Isolation Hospital) on 20/3/1915. She also worked at Broadwater Hospital on Belstead Road. She lived with this working class family in the poorest part of town.

Both Nellie's Father and brother Charlie were killed in the war.



The character Charlie is based on Nellie's brother Charles William Smith. He died on 9/4/17, aged 21 on the first day of the Battle of Arras in France.

The Stopher Brother

X 200 letter George and Albert, Sweffling, served in Suffolk Regiment - Important because

Letters provide:

- Time spent in the trenches
- Requests from home, paper, razors, cake, something to kill the flees, sulphur
- Hospitalisation, Inc. injury and shell shock
- Mud, cold, boredom, frustration of war not being over



Arthur Stopher



George Stopher

George and Albert Stopher, two brothers from the village of Sweffling in Suffolk, served in the Suffolk Regiment in France during the First World War.

The collection includes letters to and from their parents, sister, Ethel and sweethearts.

They record the preoccupations and extraordinary experiences of ordinary men.

Experiences of the Western front

The letters talk of the brothers' experiences on the front:

- Discusses time spent in trenches and time spent away
- Requests from home: paper, razors, cake, soap, hair oil, 'something to kill the flees' and sulphur
- Discusses the experiences of hospitalisation due to illness (impetigo), Shell shock and wounding
- Mud, cold, boredom and frustration at the war not being over

"We are having a tough time out here but one gets used to it"

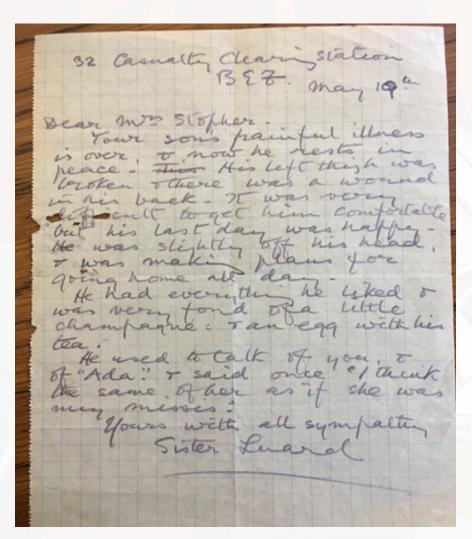
"I don't feel much like a fighting man now... I feel sure if they take me up the line it would be like taking a rat to kill a dog"

George letter to Ethel – "Its hard when I cannot write what is happening but remember what I told you when you saw me in hospital"

George to Ethel – "We are in the trenches again...we sent the Germans about 600 (shells) one day, two days after we sent 8 and 900, three days work. We labelled our packs and got ready for the Germans".

Both George and Albert were killed during the Arras offensive; Albert at the First Battle of the Scarpe (10 Apr 1917) and George at the Third Battle of the Scarpe (19 May 1917). George had previously twice been hospitalised, after being wounded October 1915 and after shell shock in July 1916.

Sister Lenard's letter to Mrs Stopher (Albert's Death)



32nd Casualty clearing station on May 19th 1917

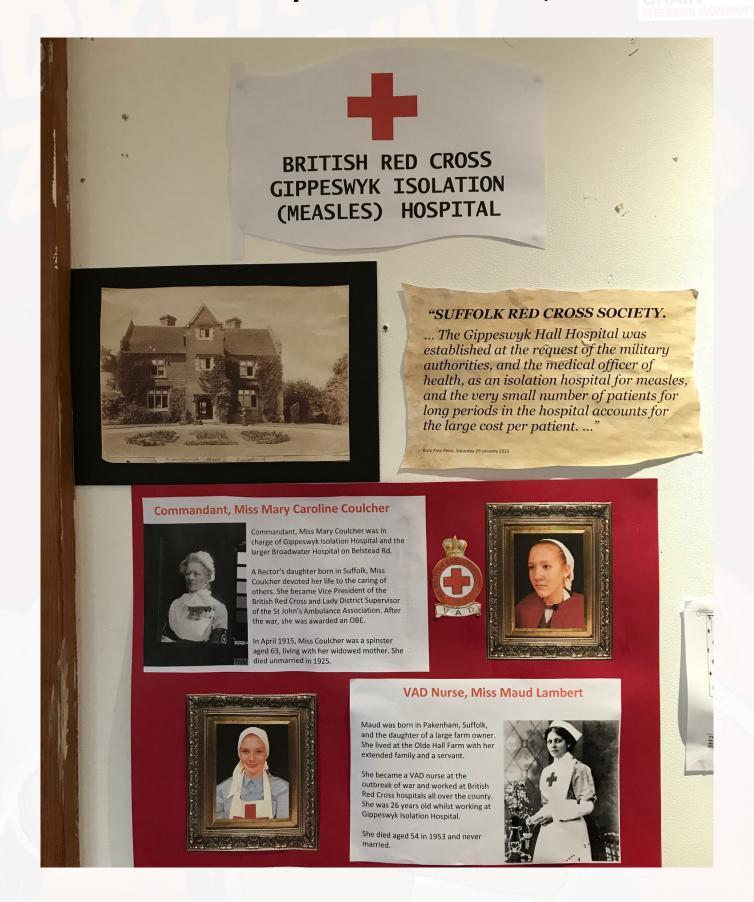
Your son's painful illness is over, and now he rests on peace. His left thigh was broken and there was a wound in his back. It was very difficult to get him confortable but his last day was happy – he was slightly off his head and was making plans for going home all day.

He had everything he liked and was very fond of a little cham-

He had everything he liked and was very fond of a little champagne and an egg with his tea. He used to talk of you and Ada and said once 'I think of her as if she were my misses'

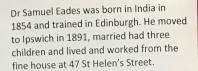
Yours with all sympathy
Sister Lenard

Commandant Mary Caroline Coulcher, The Nurses



Dr Samuel Eades, The Nurses, Herbert Robinson

THEATRE COMPAN



He was a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters and Old Fellows, providing medical treatment to other members.

In 1915, Dr Eades was Medical Officer at Gippeswyk Hall Hospital and was 61 years old

He died in 1935 aged 81.



Matron, Miss Ellen Driver

Miss Ellen Driver only served at Gippeswyk Hall from its opening until 11th June 1915. She lived at 43 Bramford Lane. There are no other records of her.



VAD Nurse, Miss Beatrice Clayton

Miss Clayton was born in Ipswich in 1871.Both her parents had died and she was staying with relatives. In 1915, she was a 44-year-old spinster and served as a VAD nurse throughout the war.

She died in 1948, never married and was buried with her parents in Ipswich cemetery.



VAD Nurse, Miss Elsie Tomlinson

Miss Tomlinson lived in Bawdsey, Suffolk and served in Red Cross Hospitals all over the county throughout the war.

In 1915, she was 21 years old.

She married Alfred Fisher in Woodbridge in 1920

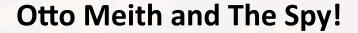
Mr Herbert Robinson

Herbert lived at 2 Gippeswyk Avenue, Ipswich and in 1911 Census was an Engineering Commercial Traveller. He was married with a baby.

In 1915, he was 39 years old and had a private engagement with the hospital to transport the wounded.

He died in Ipswich in 1959 aged 83.







One of the survivors was Lt. Otto Meith who suffered burns and two broken legs. He woke up in Ranelagh Road School, Ipswich that was being used as a military hospital. Initial concerns of housing the zeppelin crew, who were described by the press as "killers of women and children", were soon dispelled.

"His general behaviour endeared him to with all he came into contact with" and "bid him farewell when he was transferred to a prisoner of war camp"

During his stay at Ranelagh Road Hospital, Meith also came under the scrutiny of British Military Intelligence. An undercover colonel, posing as a German prisoner with shell shock, was placed in a bed in the same room as Meith. Over time, the

THE SPY!

colonel built up such a rapport with the German airman that Meith was convinced the agent was a fellow German. However, despite the subterfuge, Meith appeared to have no useful information to offer beyond his view that his nation had started the war and would almost certainly lose it.



Lt. Otto Meith in No.4 in the front row of the L48 Zeppelin crew.





Zeppelin Crash!



Zeppelin Crash!

The crashed zeppelin in our story is inspired by the crash of German Zeppelin LZ48 in Theberton, Suffolk on $17^{\rm th}$ June 1917.

Two Zeppelins left Germany on 16/6/17 with bombing orders on London. One hit Ramsgate in Kent killing 3, injuring 14, the other L48 developed engine trouble, attempted to bomb Harwich but dropped bombs on Falkenham, Kirton and Martlesham in Suffolk.

Recent developments in airplane construction, Royal Flying Corp planes took off to intercept L48. The Zeppelin was hit by incendiary shells and exploded. It was brought down in a field near Theberton, Suffolk. 16 crew died, 3 survived.





One of the Royal Flying Corps Pilots, $2^{\rm nd}$ Lt. Holder recalled his distress of the fate of the Germans on board. He waved to one of the survivors as they scrambled from the wreckage, acknowledging relief that he had survived.

Eyewitness reports from Ipswich suggest there were taunts and cheering as the German Zeppelin crashed. Newspapers reported that the fate of the German Zeppelin could be seen from 40 miles away.

Thirty thousand visited the crash site the next day, a huge feat considering not many people owned cars and petrol was rationed.

The gravediggers from Theberton Church refused to bury the 14 Germans killed. However, women from Garrett Engineering Works in Leiston volunteered to dig their graves.



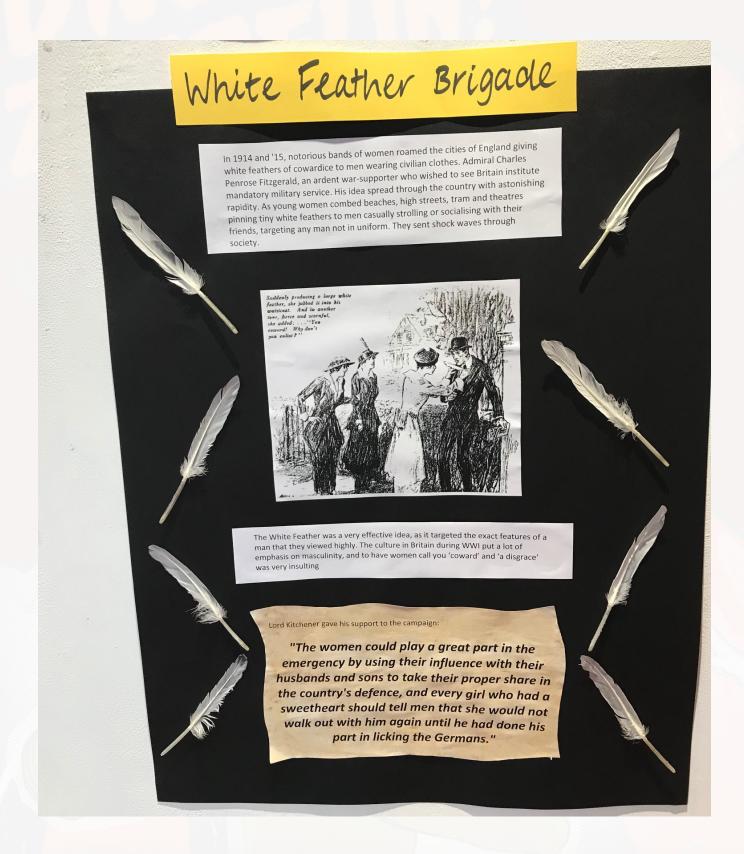
A team of women from the munitions department of the Garrett Engineering Works in Leiston volunteered to dig the graves for the Zeppelin airmen. (Long Shop Project Trust)



Reports of the funeral suggest a sombre affair with possession through the village showing respect for the dead. One onlooker lay a wreath with a message from an Englishman " who understands that each of these souls is somebody's son".

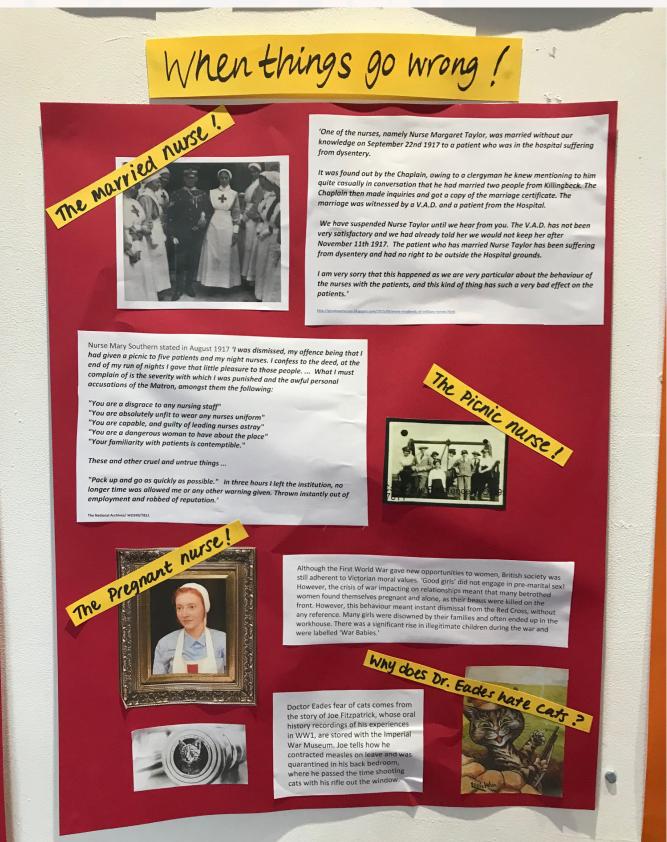


White Feather Brigade













Anti-German Sentiment

The initial optimism of war in 1914, gave way to the realities of 20th Century industrial warfare. Suffolk men were fighting in Belgium, France, Salonika and Gallipoli. For the first time the Home Front came under attack and on 29th April 1915, the German zeppelin LZ38 visited Ipswich dropping bombs across the town.

A number of events, which seemed to galvanise anti-German feelings in Ipswich and around the World:

 On 22nd April 1915, German forces used gas for the first time on allied troops in the Second Battle of Ypres.





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