

## Food in the Great War



*Men of Oundle Leaving for War. From Peterborough Museum (CG127)*

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## Food & Rationing during WW1

**“My name is Joseph Frederick Drewery and I will be guiding you through the theme of Food & Rationing during WW1:**

Like me, many men said farewell to the British countryside and enlisted, leaving behind family to tend to agricultural work in our absence.

Food was a precious resource during WW1, both on the home-front and on the front line, and the public's attitude towards food changed greatly during this period. 'Waste Not-Want Not' amongst other popular phrases of this time reflect this mentality. As more and more men enlisted to fight, there were less agricultural workers to tend to the land, which also led to many women taking these roles.

The visitors' book that I signed was originally from the WUTAC tea room, which was located at Peterborough East Railway Station. The books are items from a larger collection relating to the organisation, which also includes bills/receipts from the items the women purchased for us to eat and drink. I really enjoyed the cocoa”.



*Portrait of Joseph Frederick Drewery. From  
Freda Crew & Joan Lacey*

### Related Themes:

Rationing, Supplies, Agriculture, Women's Work, The Home Front, WUTAC, Family, Commerce, National Interests, Civilians.

### SOURCES:

Using the sources provided on the following pages you can conduct your own research on the theme of Food during the First World War.

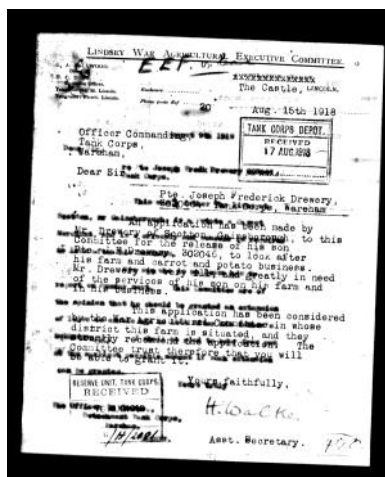
For some questions you may want to look at the website: [www.peterboroughww1.co.uk](http://www.peterboroughww1.co.uk)



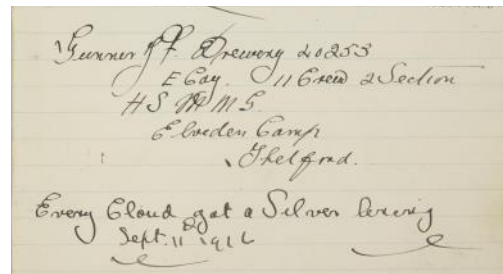
## Food & Rationing during WW1



Portrait of Joseph Frederick Drewery,  
From Freda Crew & Joan Lacey



Drewery's WW1 Service Records, From  
Ancestry



WUTAC Visitors' Books, From Peterborough Archives &  
Local Studies (PAS/WUTAC/1/1/2, Page 38)

Gunner J F. Drewery 40253  
E Coy. 116th 2 Section  
HS MMG  
Elveden Camp  
Thetford

Every Cloud got a Silver Lining  
Sept. 11th 1916

Transcription of the extract

### SOURCES:

The three sources on this page relate to the story of Joseph Frederick Drewery, they include:

1. A photographic portrait
2. WW1 Service Record
3. His entry from the Visitors' Books

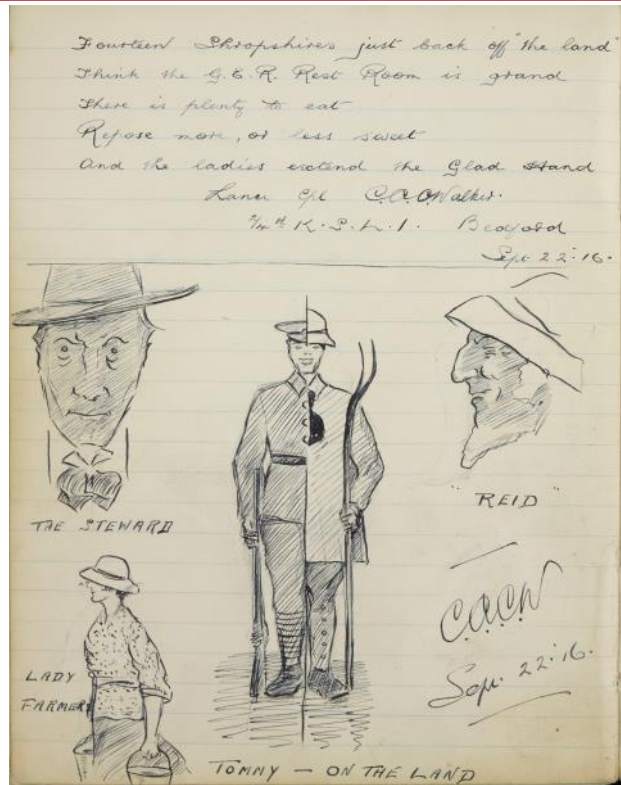
### QUESTIONS:

- What is Joseph doing in the photo?
- Why do you think he was released from the army early?
- Refer to Drewery's entry, what do you think he meant by this?

### WEBSITE TASK:

- Search for Joseph's biography and find out what type of businesses his family specialised in.
- Where was Joseph posted and what medals was he awarded.
- What was the War Agricultural Committee?
- Why would they have let a soldier go back home? What would the benefit have been in this case?

## Food & Rationing during WW1



WUTAC Visitors' Book, From Peterborough Archives & Local Studies  
(PAS/WUTAC/1/1/2, Page 42)

### SOURCES:

The source on this page relate to Charles A C Walker:

1. His entry from the visitors' books

Fourteen Shropshires just back off "the land"  
Think the G.E.R Rest Room is grand  
There is plenty to eat  
Repose more, or less sweet  
And the ladies extend the Glad Hand  
Lance Cpl cac Walker  
2/4th K.S.L.I Bedford  
Sept 2 .2:16.

*Transcription of the extract*

### QUESTIONS:

Look at the drawing in the centre,

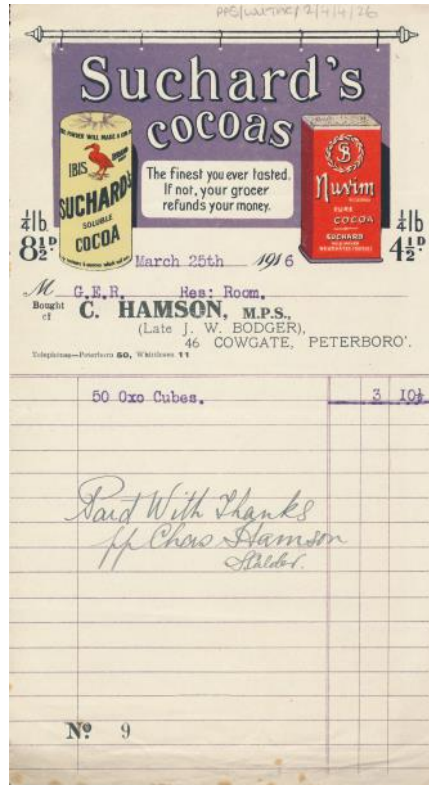
- What do the drawings from the books tell us about the changes that were taking place during WW1?
- What is a 'Tommy'?
- What did war on the home-front mean in relation to food?
- In the extract, Walker writes "the land". What is this referring to?

### WEBSITE TASK:

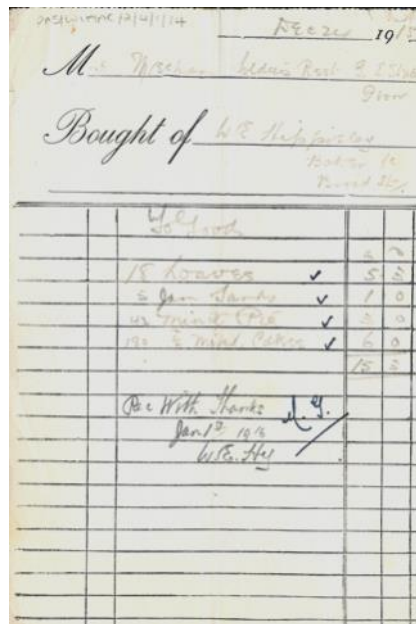
- Go to the website and search for 'Stammers', what's his story?
- From reading this, why do you think the trawler boats were being targeted?



## Food & Rationing during WW1



Invoice, From Peterborough Archives. (PAS/ WUTAC/2/4/26)



Invoice, From Peterborough Archives. (PAS/ WUTAC/2/4/1/14)

### SOURCES:

The sources on this page relate to the other items that belong to the same collection as the visitors' books, they include:

1. A Receipt/Invoice
2. A Receipt/Invoice

### QUESTIONS:

- How much do you think these items would cost today? In comparison do they cost more or less?
- Looking at the second receipt - what festivities might they have been preparing for, when they purchased the items?
- In contrast, how are these receipts different from the ones we get today?
- What would your slogan for Cocoa be?

### WEBSITE TASK:

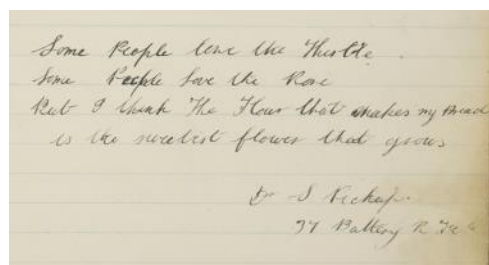
- The first receipt is dated March 25th 1916, find the nearest date in the book, who might have eaten this food?
- Can you find Mr Bodger's address on a map today?

# Peterborough & The Great War: Resource Pack

## Food & Rationing during WW1



*From Peterborough Advertiser, 21/4/1917*



*WUTAC Visitors' Book, From Peterborough Archives & Local Studies (PAS/WUTAC/1/1/2, Page 12)*

Some People love the Thistle  
Some People love the Rose  
But I think the Flour that makes my Bread  
is the sweetest flower that grows

Dr S Pickup.  
37 Battery RFA

### Transcription of the extract

Food Control.			
New Food Rations.			
Graduated Scale for Bread.			
LESS MEAT ALLOWED.			
BREAD.	WEEKLY RATION.	lb. oz.	
Men on heavy industrial work or agricultural work	8	0	
Men on ordinary industrial or other manual work	7	0	
Men unoccupied or on sedentary work	4	8	
Women on heavy industrial work or on agricultural work	5	0	
Women on ordinary industrial work or in domestic service	4	0	
Women unoccupied or on sedentary work	3	8	
OTHER FOODS (for all adults).			
	lb. oz.		
Cereals other than bread	0	12	
Meat	0	0	
Butter, margarine, lard, oils, and fats	0	8	
Sugar	0	8	
CHILDREN.			
Persons to receive "reasonable" rations: no definite scale laid down.			
Sir Arthur Yapp, Director of Food Bounties announced the new scale of voluntary rations, as set out above, at a meeting of the Manchester Food Control Council on Monday, at which the Lord Mayor of Manchester presided. He added the warning that the Government will not be prepared to insist in the use of the staple foods, and hence, the rations should on no account be exceeded.			
The winter scale laid down by Lord Devonport last winter was as follows:			
Bread	lb. per week		
(or Flour for bread-making)	3lb. "		
Meat	1lb. (afterwards reduced to 1lb.)		
Sugar			
It will be seen that the new scale differs in several respects from the old. Lord Devonport's limit on bread was 14 lb. a week, meat, and sugar, whereas Sir Arthur Yapp's limit is 8 lb. cereals other than bread, and 2 lb. butter, margarine, lard, oils, and fats. While Lord Devonport, of course, recognized "winter" differences between the reasonable and the "normal" rations, he made no special arrangements for men engaged in sedentary work, and for children. The new scale is based on a flat rate for each individual without			

*From Peterborough Advertiser, 17/11/1917*

**SOURCES:**

The sources on this page relate to food rationing, they include:

1. A News Article
2. A News Article
3. An entry from the visitors' books

### QUESTIONS:

- Why was food rationed?
- What did they give men and women different allowances for and why?
- What do you think a 'reasonable amount' for children?
- Do you think these articles would convince people to cut down on how much food they consumed? Is there an element of propaganda at play here?
- Why does Dr Pickup like flour?

### WEBSITE TASK:

- Search for Private Macphail on the website, read his extract and view the image on the picture gallery, what do you think a field bakery was?