



**WAR WITH GERMANY WAS
DECLARED AT 11PM ON 4th
AUGUST 1914.**

**The British Government asked
for 100,000 volunteers to join
the Army. 750,000 applied in
the first month. It was the
popular belief amongst
volunteers that *"the War will
be over by Christmas"*.**

**A public recruiting meeting was
held at Halberton National
School on Monday 7th December
1914**

“Mr T. Lovett appealed to all eligible young men to come forward as free men and offer themselves, and not wait to be pressed. He mentioned that 28 recruits had already gone from Halberton”.

“A patriotic song by Mr. S. Jennings was given, entitled ‘Your King and Country need you’, all joining heartily in the chorus”.

“At the close the following offered themselves as new recruits- J. Richards, Thos. Richards, W. Ridgeway, Chas Pearce, F. Veale, WJ Blake and F. Clapp”.

Western Times 11.12.1914



The 3rd Devons at Ash Thomas

THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1916,

APPLIES TO UNMARRIED MEN WHO, ON AUGUST 15th, 1915, WERE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER AND WHO WILL NOT BE 41 YEARS OF AGE ON MARCH 2nd, 1916.

ALL MEN (NOT EXCEPTED OR EXEMPTED),

between the above ages who, on November 2nd, 1915, were Unmarried or Widowers without any Child dependent on them will, on

Thursday, March 2nd, 1916

BE DEEMED TO BE ENLISTED FOR THE PERIOD OF THE WAR.

They will be placed in the Reserve until Called Up in their Class.

MEN EXCEPTED:

SOLDIERS, including Territorials who have volunteered for Foreign Service;
MEN serving in the NAVY or ROYAL MARINES;
MEN DISCHARGED from ARMY or NAVY, disabled or ill, or TIME-EXPIRED MEN;
MEN REJECTED for the ARMY since AUGUST 14th, 1915;
CLERGYMEN, PRIESTS, and MINISTERS OF RELIGION;
VISITORS from the DOMINIONS.

MEN WHO MAY BE EXEMPTED BY LOCAL TRIBUNALS:

Men more useful to the Nation in their present employments;

Men in whose case Military Service would cause serious hardship owing to exceptional financial or business obligations or domestic position;

Men who are ill or infirm;

Men who conscientiously object to combatant service. If the Tribunal thinks fit, men may, on this ground, be (a) exempted from combatant service only (not non-combatant service), or (b) exempted on condition that they are engaged in work of National importance.

Up to March 2nd, a man can apply to his Local Tribunal for a certificate of exemption. There is a Right of Appeal. He will not be called up until his case has been dealt with finally.

Certificates of exemption may be absolute, conditional or temporary. Such certificates can be renewed, varied or withdrawn.

Men retain their Civil Rights until called up and are amenable to Civil Courts only.

**DO NOT WAIT UNTIL MARCH 2nd.
ENLIST VOLUNTARILY NOW.**

For fuller particulars of the Act, please apply for Leaflet No. 16 to the nearest Post Office, Police Station, or Recruiting Office.

In March 1916 conscription was introduced. Tribunals were set up to consider appeals against being called up for military service.

Alfred Melliush, a mechanic of Halberton, was granted exemption until 31st March 1917 because he earned £2 per week and he gave his mother all his earnings.

Devon and Somerset News 30.11.1916

A farmer from Cruwys Morchard was told his only help on the farm, Charles Ayre, a 19 year old carter, *“must go”*.

Devon and Somerset News 07.09.1916

The Surveyor for Tiverton Rural Council complained to the Tribunal that he now had *“only 12 men to work 75 miles of main road and 400 miles of other road”*.

Devon and Somerset News 25.11.1916

William C Chidgey, baker and provision merchant of Halberton told the Tribunal that the district he served was *“largely composed of agricultural labourers, who now required more bread than before, because they had no potatoes and necessities were so dear. The Tribunal regretted they could not grant exemption, but appellant was not to be available before May 31st”*.

Western Times 04.05.1917

The only village barber in Halberton, Mr. E. Bidmead, was called to the colours.

Western Times 18.05.1917