

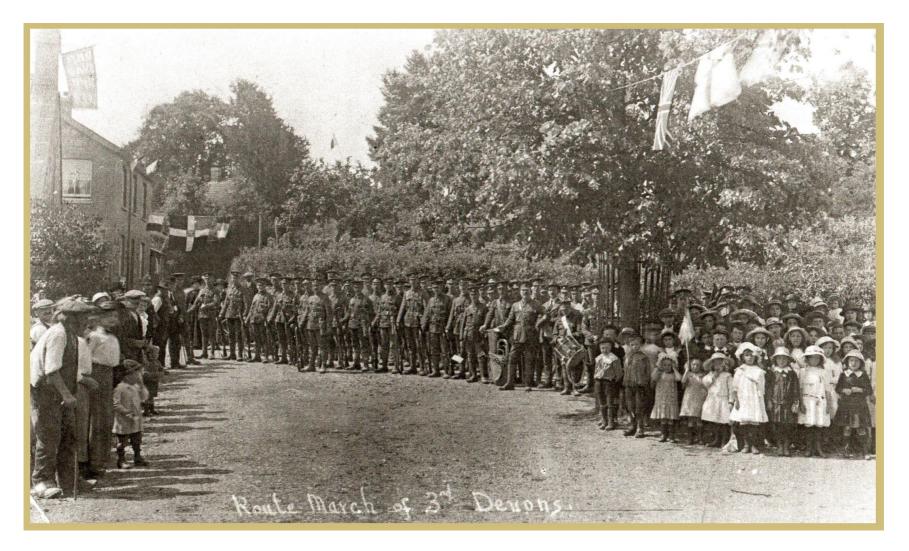
WAR WITH GERMANY WAS DECLARED AT 11PM ON 4th AUGUST 1914.

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

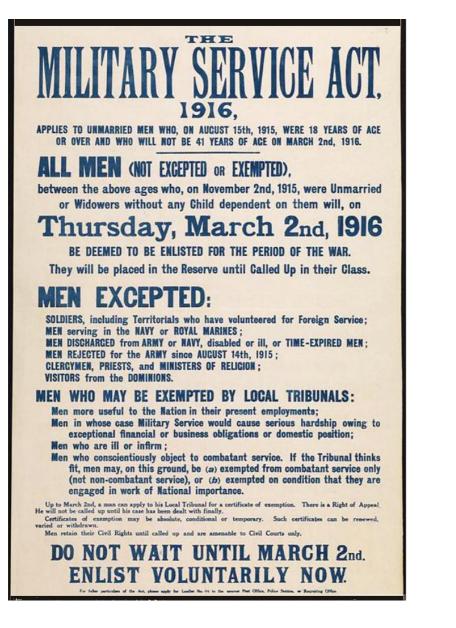
"Mr T. Lovett appealed to all eligible young men to come forward as free men and offer themselves, and not wait to be pressed. He mentioned that 28 recruits had already gone from Halberton". "A patriotic song by Mr. S. Jennings was given, entitled 'Your King and Country need you', all joining heartily 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



In March 1916 conscription was introduced. Tribunals were set up to consider appeals against being called up for military service. Alfred Melluish, 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 necessaries were so dear. The Tribunal regretted they could not grant exemption, but appellant was not to be available before May 31st".

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

Western Times 18.05.1917

Western Times 04.05.1917