

HTSM First World War Monthly Journal

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Rest huts

The Rector's letter referred to a constant complaint of soldiers in the field that the officers behind the lines did not know what was going on. Mr. Kirwan compared the situation in France to us and God: HQ sends an order which seems wrong, but the officer on the ground can only see his small area.

There was an appeal for money for comforts for the 5th Bn the Queen's, which would be collected and administered by Mrs. Brodrick, the wife of their colonel. Forty rest huts had been provided by the Church of England Mens' Society. They were erected by the Church Army but Anglican chaplains could also use them. Part of each would be a chapel. Mr. Edward Cox, who ran a haberdashery in the Upper High Street was the parish secretary for this.

The Band of Hope was affected by the war. There were fewer children because some had started work earlier than normal, and others were worried by the dark streets. Three volunteers had left to do war work: the Misses Cleasby, Sumpster and Willmott. (Miss Sumpster's brother died in 1918.)

The Temperance Society had had fewer meetings because of the dark street and the Zeppelin scare. Three of their committee members had enlisted since 1914.

On a happier note, the kindergarten had had a Christmas meeting with a tiny Christmas tree with parcels labelled for sailor and soldier 'daddies'.

Mary Alexander