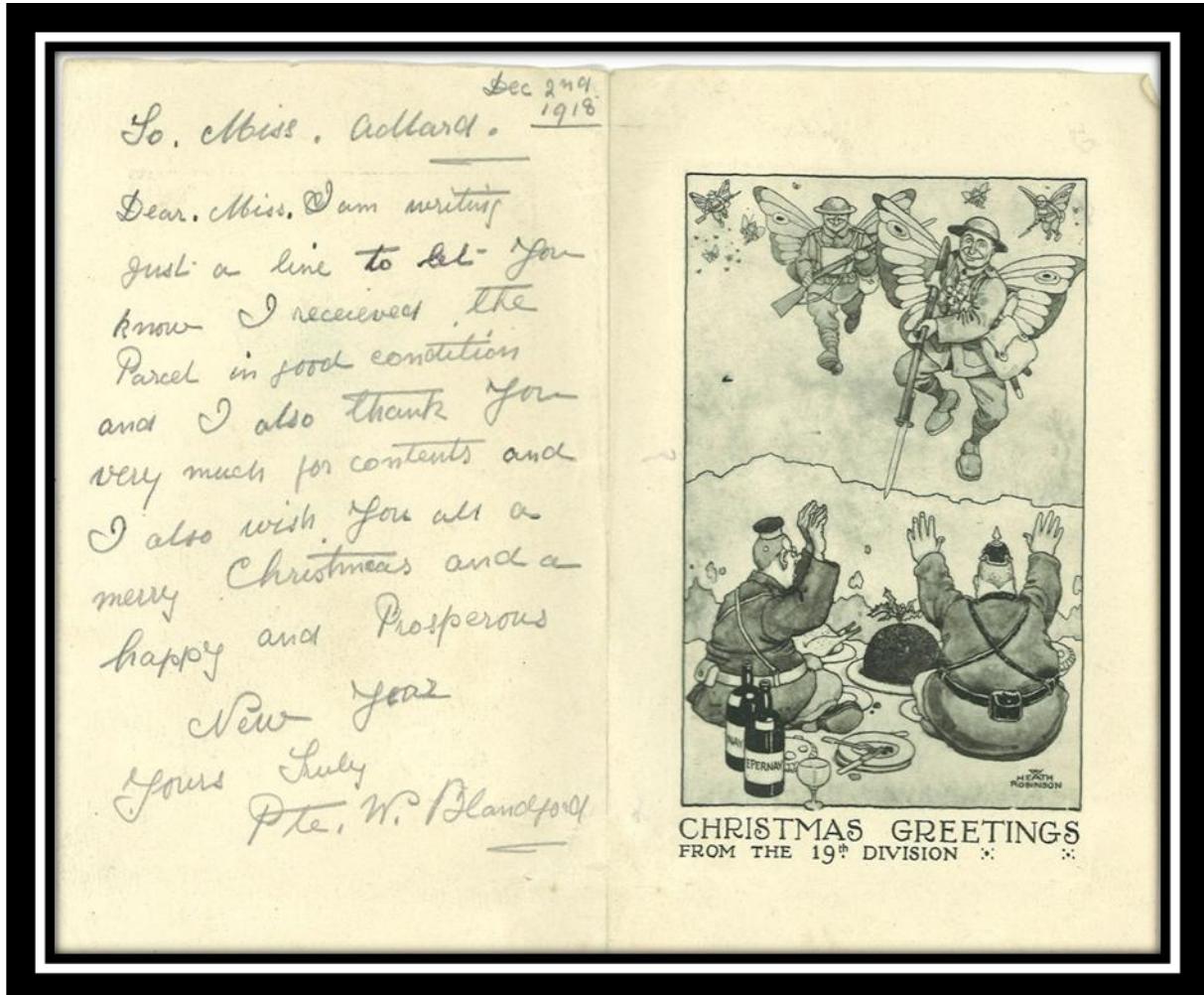




## A Shoe Box of Delights!



**Your task:** Recreate the Christmas parcel that Miss Adlard sent out to Private W. Blandford at the front. **What do you think was inside?**

Even though his parcel was sent after the war was ended, he would still have looked forward to receiving small packages, treats and letters from home. At Christmas, family, friends and good things to eat (the food at the front was pretty dreadful), were especially missed.

### A few rules for your parcel:

1. You can only use a standard-sized shoebox- all your gifts must fit inside it.
2. Your parcel must contain a Christmas greeting card with a message or letter inside.
3. All gifts must be things you could get in 1918 – so nothing from the 21<sup>st</sup> century is allowed!
4. The rest is left up to your imagination and what you can make!

The following 7 sources should give you some inspiration for the contents. Spend some time investigating them before you start.



## A Shoe Box of Delights!

To make your shoebox into a parcel fit for the period you will need to disguise it a bit!  
The following items might help.

**1 standard size shoe box**

**Brown parcel paper**

**Parcel string**

**A cardboard luggage label**

**Scissors, glue and sticky tape**



### Source 1. Princess Mary's Christmas Fund Tin 1914.

A small gift-filled tobacco tin was sent to frontline servicemen and nurses by Princess Mary.



But what exactly was inside? The pictures only tell part of the story. Read this:

'It was anticipated that the majority of eligible recipients would receive an embossed brass box, one ounce of pipe tobacco, twenty cigarettes, a pipe, a tinder lighter, Christmas card and photograph but quite early on the committee in charge received strong representations that an alternative gift should be made available for non-smokers. After some discussion the Committee agreed that non-smokers should receive the brass box, a packet of acid tablets, a khaki writing case containing pencil, paper and envelopes together with the Christmas card and photograph of the Princess.

The Committee was also obliged to consider the tastes of other minority groups and it was recognised that if the dietary rules of various religious groups were to be respected, changes would have to be made in the gifts intended for Indian troops. It was decided that the Gurkhas were to receive the same gift as the British troops; Sikhs the box filled with sugar candy, a tin box of spices and the Christmas card; all other Indian troops, the box with a packet of cigarettes and sugar candy, a tin box of spices and the card. Authorised camp followers, grouped under the title of 'Bhistis' were to receive a tin box of spices and the card.

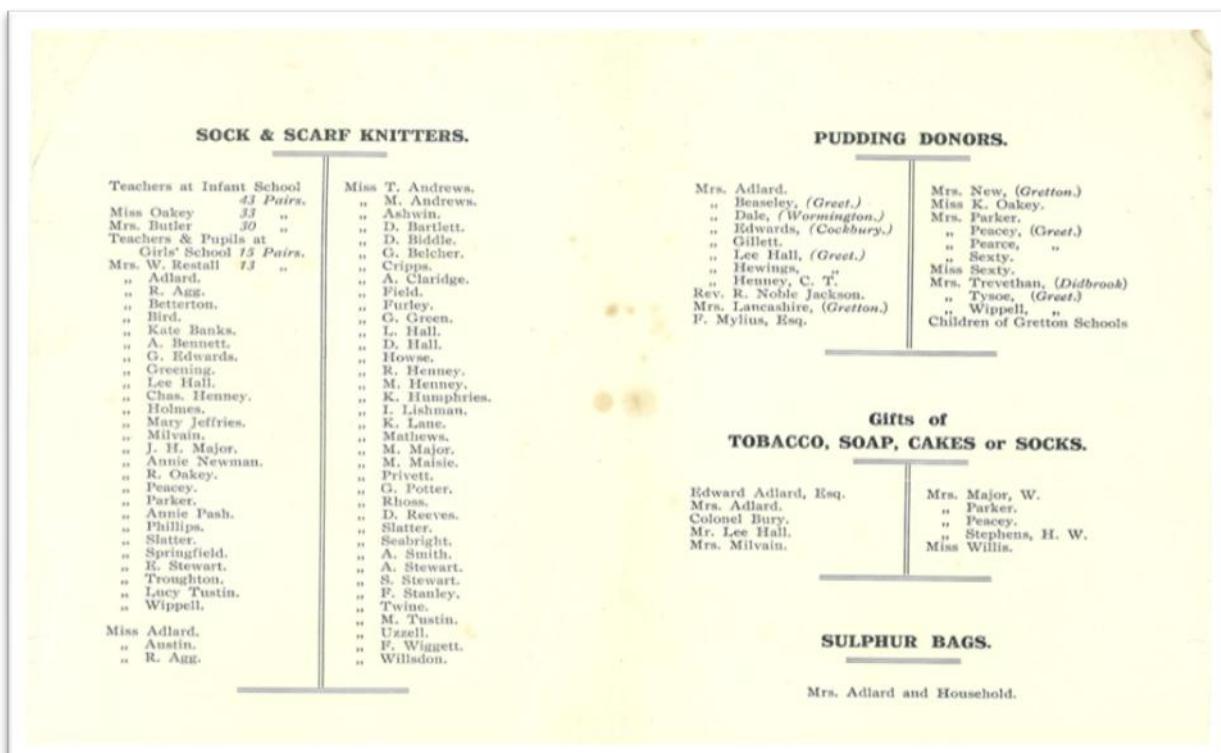
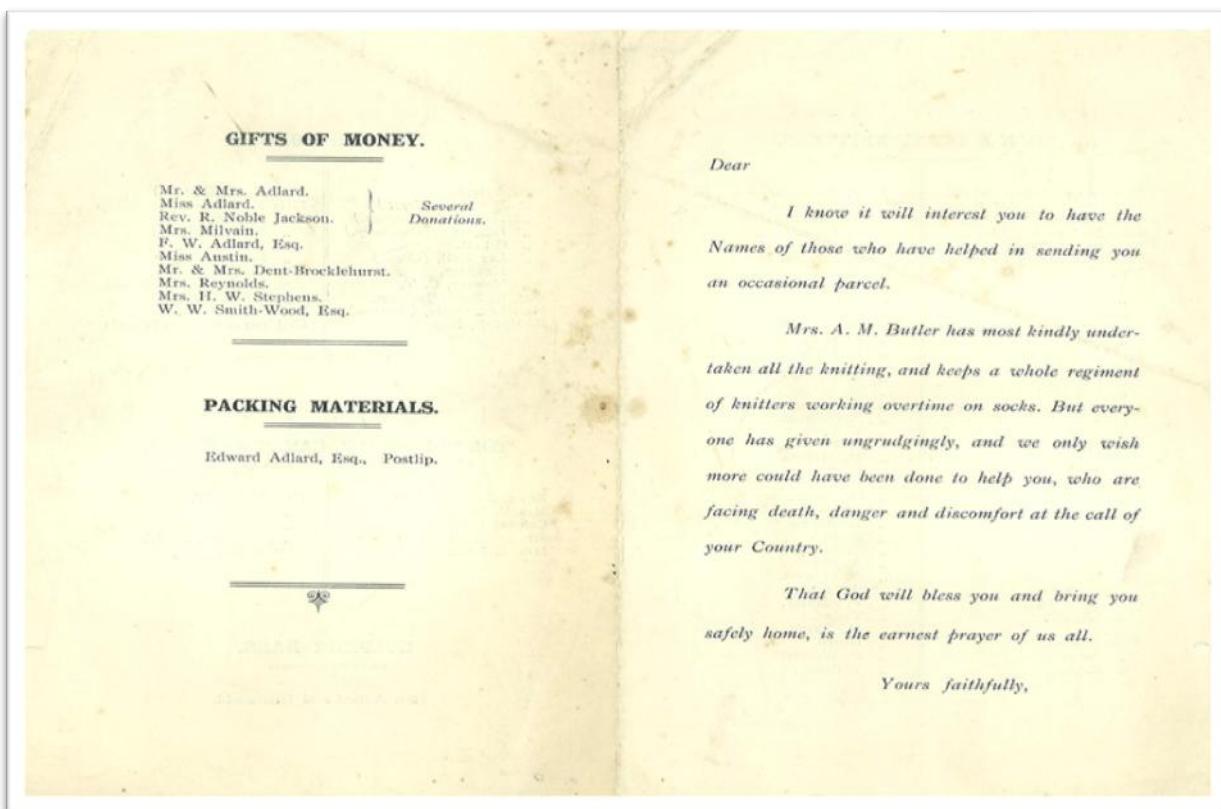
The smokers' and non-smokers' gifts were both deemed unacceptable by the committee for nurses at the front in France who were instead offered the box, a packet of chocolate and the card.

However, suppliers of the content items had trouble and it was realised that there were still not enough to go round. The Committee resolved the problem by hurriedly buying in an assortment of substitute gifts: bullet pencil cases, tobacco pouches, shaving brushes, combs, pencil cases with packets of postcards, knives, scissors, cigarette cases and purses. Those sailors who should also have received the lighter as part of their gift, were given instead, a handsome bullet pencil in a silver cartridge case which bore Princess Mary's monogram. The 'pencil bullet' was not fashioned out of real bullet parts – it was simply a pencil with a rounded white metal end that looked like an unfired round when stored inside a brass tube resembling a cartridge case'

**Extract take from information at The Imperial War Museum Website:**  
<http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/princess-mary-gift-fund-1914-box-and-contents>

## Source 2.

Collected Christmas gifts for the troops organised by a benefactor from Postlip near Winchcombe.  
It includes a standard letter which donors could complete and send with their gifts.



Source 3.

An advertisement from W.D. Slade, Gentlemen's Outfitters and E. Wright, Tobacconist. Both printed in the Cheltenham Chronical and Gloucestershire Gazette prior to Christmas in the war years.

**SOLDIERS' XMAS COMFORTS  
AT  
W. D. Slade's.**

**Khaki** Service Shirts, **4/11.**  
**Khaki** Wool Jackets, **13/6.**  
**Khaki** Wool Spencers, **8/6.**  
**Khaki** Wool Mufflers, **2/6.**  
**Khaki** Balaclava Sleeping Caps, **1/6.**  
**Khaki** or Navy Mitts, **1/3.**  
**Khaki** Handkerchiefs, **2/11** per doz.  
Body Belts **1/11.**  
Wool Gloves, **1/6.**  
Marching Socks, **1/-** and **1/6.**  
Warm Under Vests, **2/6.**  
Pants, **2/6.**  
Warm Day Shirts, **3/11.**  
Pyjamas, **6/9.**

**OFFICERS'**

Service Dress, Burberrys, Sam Browne Belts, Swords, Kit Bags, Valises, Sleeping Bags, Etc. Complete Camp Outfits.

**SLADE,**  
**IMPERIAL HOUSE, PROMENADE,**  
**Tel. 78. CHELTENHAM. Tel. 78.**

**YNGARTH SPORTS AND GARDEN FETE IN AID OF MINISTERING CHILDREN'S LEAGUE.**  
TWO FESTIVALS WERE JOINED WITH GREAT SUCCESS THIS YEAR, AND A HANDSOME SUM IN AID OF "CHELTENHAM" BIDS WAS RAISED ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 9TH, AT THE PRETTY GREEN GROUNDS of the pupils, with his "big" and "small" sons, and the boys in impromptu group, being their turn for six-shillings-a-penny in pigeon holes.

4.—Mr. B. Auden (headmaster) with Mrs. Bruce-Bryce and her daughter, Mrs. Grundy, Rev. A. P. Cox behind.

5.—Rides on a pony round the grounds at a penny a head brought in a big sum.

6.—Some Gloucester lady visitors.

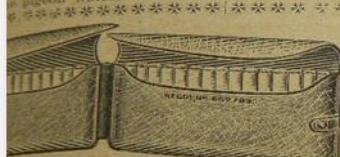
7.—By trade at the three-a-penny sides.

(Photos by Cheltenham Newspaper Co., Ltd.)

**THE WRIGHT**  
**Service Cigaret Case**

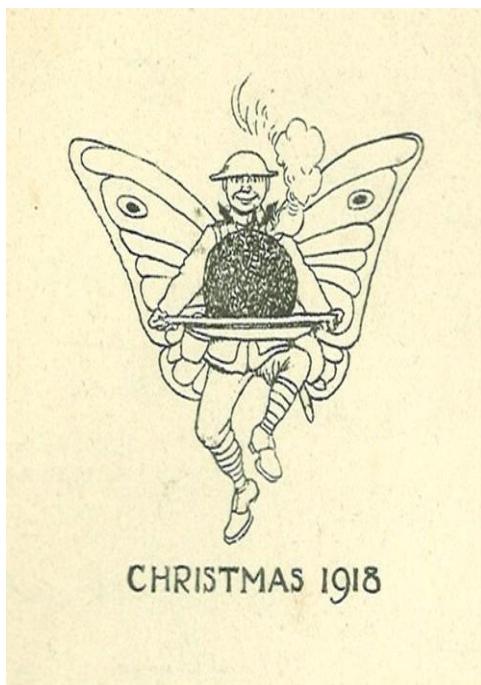
A Soldier needs in the Camp, the Billet, or at the Front, Any Crest or Monogram. Made from the best Pigskin. In three sizes, to hold 20, 25, 30 Cigarettes in the smallest compass. As indispensable as your watch. The Cigaret Case "With an Idea," SEND ONE TO YOUR FRIEND, SMOKERS.

Manufacturer—  
**E. WRIGHT,**  
The  
Cigaret Man,  
THE CORNER Cigar Store,  
PROMENADE, CHELTENHAM.



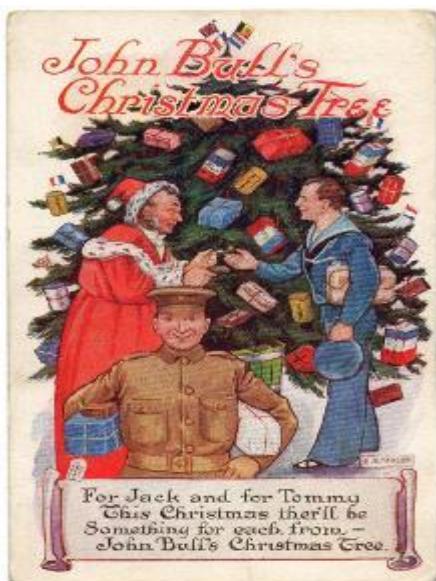
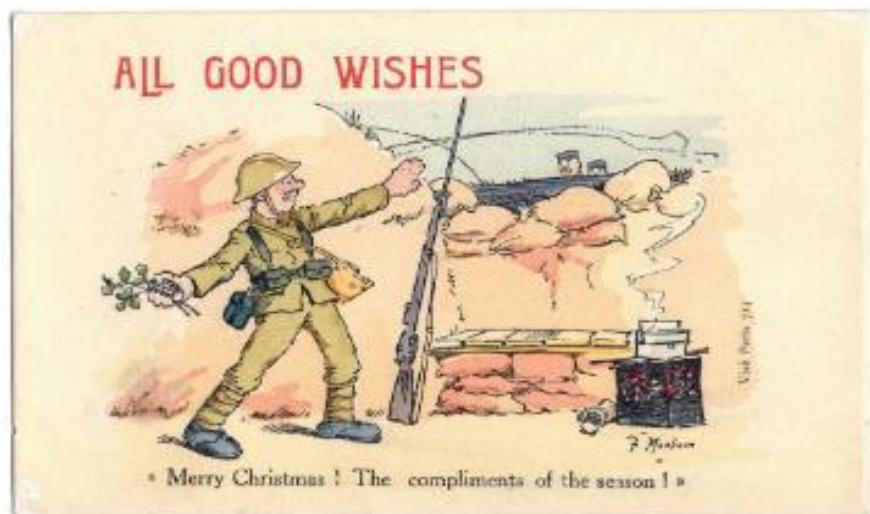
Source 4

Christmas and New Year cards from and to the front.



Gloucester  
Regimental  
badge.





## Source 5.

## Christmas Hampers from The Oriental Café Co. Cheltenham

CHELTENHAM CHRONICLE AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE GRAPHIC, DECEMBER 5, 1914.

# OUR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS - - DESERVE ALL WE CAN AFFORD TO SEND THEM. - - A MOST ACCEPTABLE GIFT

IS ONE OF OUR  
**SPECIAL XMAS BOXES**

CONTAINING  
**Christmas Pudding,**  
**Mince Pies, and**  
**Chocolate,**

PACKED READY FOR THE FRONT.

Prices (Including Postage): **5/6, 7/6, 10/6.**

Save all trouble in packing and despatch and place your orders NOW.

**THE ORIENTAL CAFE CO.,**  
Cosy Corner, Oriental Cafe,  
Promenade, 395 High Street,  
**CHELTEHAM.**



A FEW OF OUR RECENT ORDERS READY FOR  
DESPATCH.