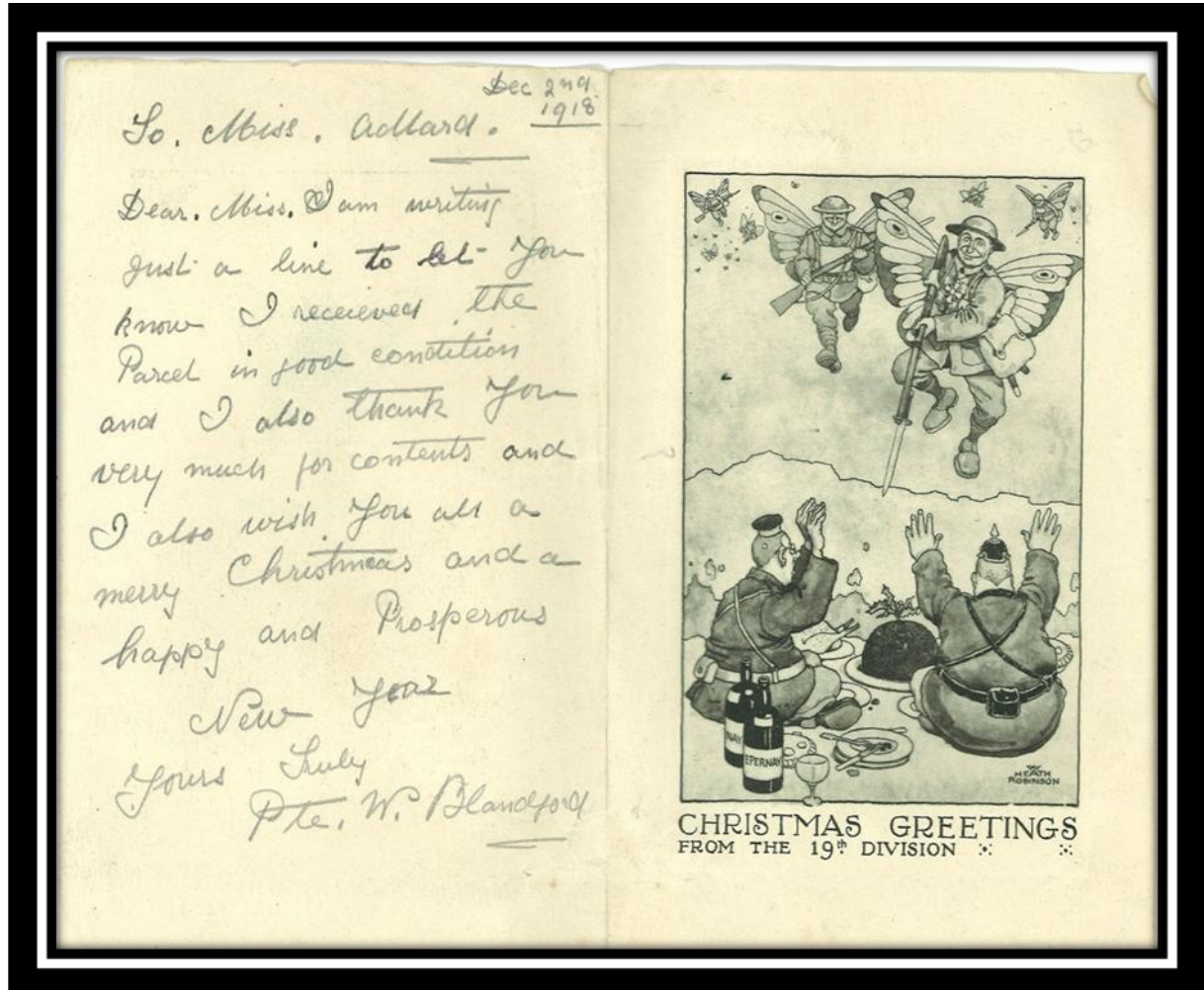




A Shoe Box of Delights!



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 21st 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 serviceman 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.

GIFTS OF MONEY.

Mr. & Mrs. Adlard.	} Several Donations.
Miss Adlard.	
Rev. R. Noble Jackson.	
Mrs. Milvain.	
F. W. Adlard, Esq.	
Miss Austin.	
Mr. & Mrs. Dent-Brocklehurst.	
Mrs. Reynolds.	
Mrs. H. W. Stephens.	
W. W. Smith-Wood, Esq.	

PACKING MATERIALS.

Edward Adlard, Esq., Postlip.

Dear

*I know it will interest you to have the
Names of those who have helped in sending you
an occasional parcel.*

*Mrs. A. M. Butler has most kindly under-
taken all the knitting, and keeps a whole regiment
of knitters working overtime on socks. But every-
one has given ungrudgingly, and we only wish
more could have been done to help you, who are
facing death, danger and discomfort at the call of
your Country.*

*That God will bless you and bring you
safely home, is the earnest prayer of us all.*

Yours faithfully,

SOCK & SCARF KNITTERS.

Teachers at Infant School	Miss T. Andrews.
Miss Oakley 43 Pairs.	" M. Andrews.
Mrs. Butler 33 "	" Ashwin.
Mrs. Butler 30 "	" D. Bartlett.
Teachers & Pupils at	" D. Biddle.
Girls' School 15 Pairs.	" G. Belcher.
Mrs. W. Restall 13 "	" Cripps.
" Adlard.	" A. Claridge.
" R. Agg.	" Field.
" Betterton.	" Furley.
" Bird.	" G. Green.
" Kate Banks.	" L. Hall.
" A. Bennett.	" D. Hall.
" G. Edwards.	" Howse.
" Greening.	" R. Henney.
" Lee Hall.	" M. Henney.
" Chas. Henney.	" K. Humphries.
" Holmes.	" L. Lishman.
" Mary Jeffries.	" K. Lane.
" Milvain.	" Mathews.
" J. H. Major.	" M. Major.
" Annie Newman.	" M. Maisie.
" R. Oakley.	" Privett.
" Peacey.	" G. Potter.
" Parker.	" Rhoss.
" Annie Pash.	" D. Reeves.
" Phillips.	" Slatter.
" Slatter.	" Seabright.
" Springfield.	" A. Smith.
" K. Stewart.	" A. Stewart.
" Troughton.	" S. Stewart.
" Lucy Tustin.	" F. Stanley.
" Wippell.	" Twine.
Miss Adlard.	" M. Tustin.
" Austin.	" Uzzell.
" R. Agg.	" F. Wiggett.
	" Willadon.

PUDDING DONORS.

Mrs. Adlard.	Mrs. New, (Gretton.)
" Beaseley, (Greet.)	Miss K. Oakley.
" Dale, (Wormington.)	Mrs. Parker.
" Edwards, (Cockbury.)	" Peacey, (Greet.)
" Gillett.	" Pearce, "
" Lee Hall, (Greet.)	" Sexty, "
" Hewings,	Miss Sexty.
" Henney, C. T.	Mrs. Trevethan, (Didbrook)
Rev. R. Noble Jackson.	" Tysoe, (Greet.)
Mrs. Lancashire, (Gretton.)	" Wippell, "
F. Mylius, Esq.	Children of Gretton Schools

**Gifts of
TOBACCO, SOAP, CAKES or SOCKS.**

Edward Adlard, Esq.	Mrs. Major, W.
Mrs. Adlard.	" Parker.
Colonel Bury.	" Peacey.
Mr. Lee Hall.	" Stephens, H. W.
Mrs. Milvain.	Miss Willis.

SULPHUR BAGS.

Mrs. Adlard and Household.

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, Sleep-
ing Bags, Etc. Complete Camp Outfits.

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

UNCARTH SPORTS AND GARDEN FETE IN AID OF MINISTERING CHILDREN'S LEAGUE.
TWO "CHELTENHAM" BEDS WAS RAISED ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 9th, AT THE PRETTY SCHOOL GROUNDS
of the pupils with his "big" and 4.—Mr. B. Auden (headmaster) with Mrs. 5.—Rides on a pony round the grounds at
of the boys in impromptu group. Bruce-Bryce and her daughter, Mrs. 6.—Some Gloucester lady visitors.
ing their turn for six-shies-a-penny. Grundy, Rev. A. P. Cox behind. 7.—A big trade at the three-a-penny shies.
pigeon holes. [Photos by Cheltenham Newspaper Co., Ltd.]

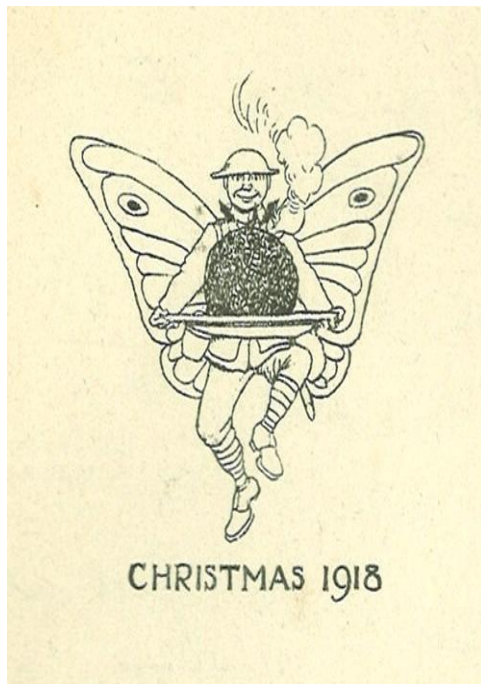
THE WRIGHT
Service Cigaret Case
A Soldier needs in the Camp, the Billet, or
at the Front. Any Crest or Monogram.
Made from the best Pigskin. In three sizes,
to hold 20, 25, 30 Cigarettes in the smallest
compass. As indispensable as your watch.
The Cigaret Case "With an Idea."
SEND ONE TO YOUR FRIEND,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

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

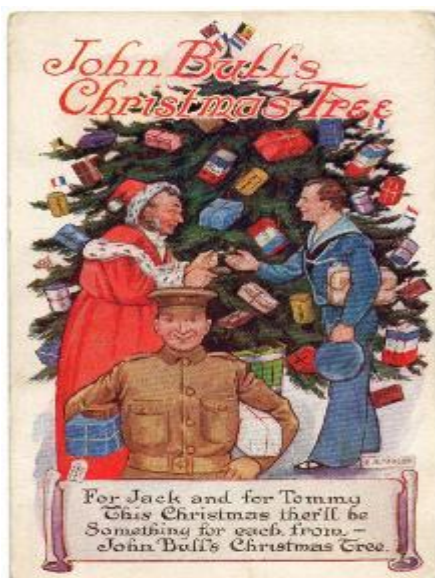
Source 4

Christmas and New Year cards from and to the front.



Gloucester
Regimental
badge.





Source 5.

Christmas Hampers from The Oriental Café Co. Cheltenham

CHEL TENHAM 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,
CHELTENHAM.



A FEW OF OUR RECENT ORDERS READY FOR
DESPATCH.