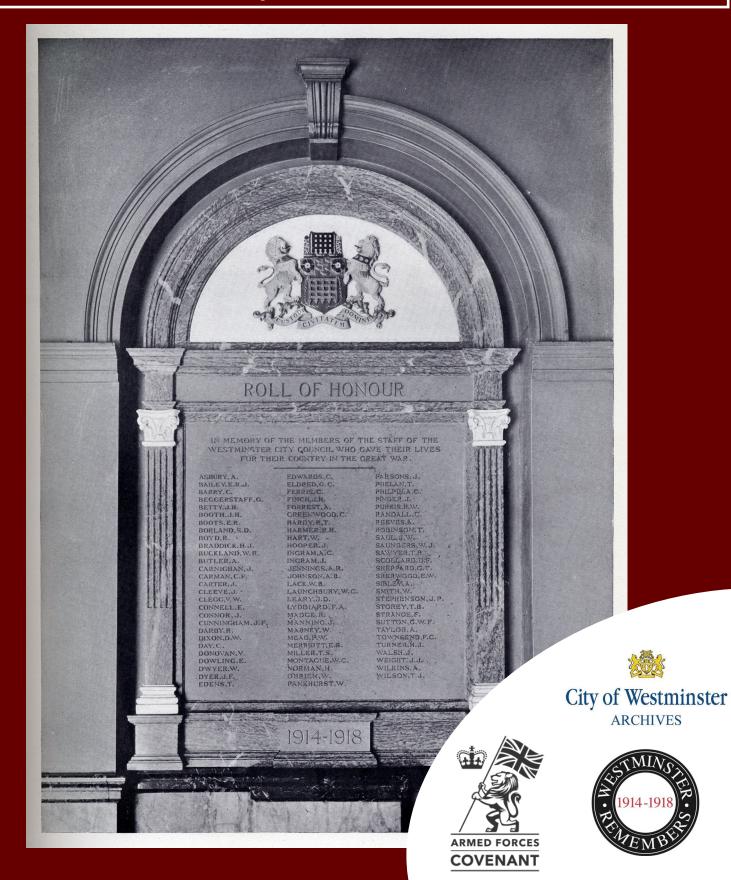
### The Story of

### **Private Ernest Richard Boots**

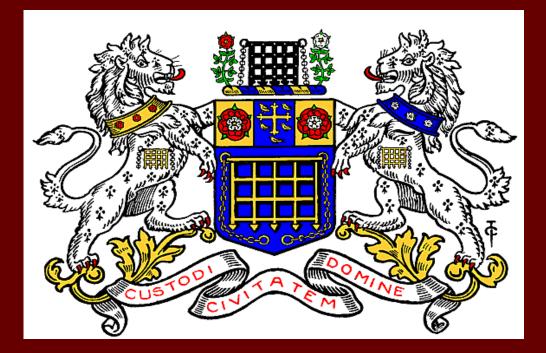
### **By Peter Daniel**



### **Introduction**

### 2016 is the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

The story of Pimlico born Pte Ernest Richard Boots of the King's Royal Rifles forms part of The City of Westminster 's initiatives to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War. On the 1st July, 1916, the British army suffered 60,000 casualties, 20,000 of which were killed in one day. This devastating loss was to cast a shadow over the first half of the 20th century and would influence many of the changes that came about because of the war. Due to this significance, Westminster Council are marking this major national anniversary by restoring the Westminster Council Staff War memorial to City Hall. This previously stood in the old Westminster Town Hall that stood in Charing Cross Road. Westminster Archives, acting on a tip off from a member of the public, discovered that the memorial had been lost, possibly destroyed during the refurbishment of the building in the 1990s by the National Westminster Bank. An idea was put forward to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme by creating a new memorial to the men of the council who had been killed in the Great War. To make this more meaning-ful Westminster Archives researched the names on the memorial and discovered one man, Pte Ernest Richard Boots had been killed on 1st July 1916. Using a grant from the Community Covenant fund we have researched his story so that local children can make a meaningful contribution to the



### www.ww1playingthegame.org.uk

## Section 1

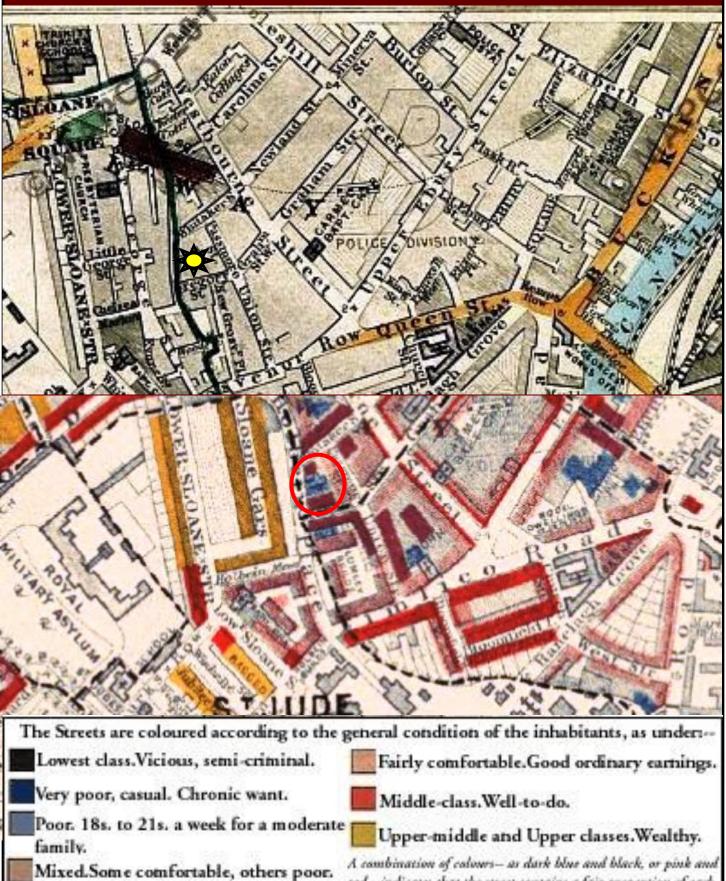
# Ernest Boots Pimlico Born and Bred



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Page 3			daries	are situate wit	ned Houses	ndermentio	The u	City or	16-	例
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CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERT AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE CROWN COPYRIGHT WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY	Sarah Jane Corn Boots formerly Chandlers Embling Carman	Carrie Carne	5 6 Name, surname and Occupation maiden surname of father of mother	ST GEORGE HANOVER SQUARE in the County of Middl		<b>Certificate Ernest Boots</b>
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DAN	F w Doggett Registrar	And the second s	9 10 Signature of Name entered d registrar after registration		GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE 7354257-1	
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### Source 3: Charles Booth Map 1889 Gregory Street



A combination of colours— as dark blue and black, or pink and red— indicates that the street contains a fair proportion of each of the classes represented by the respective colours.



### What was life like for a carman?



Carman dominated London streets as the then and now picture of Covent Garden shows. As a common profession Charles Booth made detailed notes about them in his 1891 survey:

"...43,801\* Carmen, Carters, Van Boys etc... employed in driving or taking charge of vehicles which carry merchandise"

**"There is perhaps no man's employment which yields so small a return per hour.** To drive a cart demands but little skill, nor any exceptional intelligence, and there is nothing like the physical exhaustion which puts a natural limit to hours of work in many trades. Moreover, the hours in which goods are moved by road extend almost necessarily early and late, preceding or following the work of others. For one horse vans men's wages vary from 18s (9Op) to 24s (£1.20), and boys are often employed at lower rates. Some of the heaviest work is paid no more than 18s (90p). for two-horse vans the pay varies from 22s (£1.10) to 26s (£1.30) with a few at 28s (£1.40). For three or four horses no particular difference is made; 30s (£1.50) per week is the maximum rate, and few employers pay as much. ......At one time tips were almost a system, but are no longer usual, excepting perhaps with the men engaged in parcels delivery, who may still substantially augment their wages in this way."

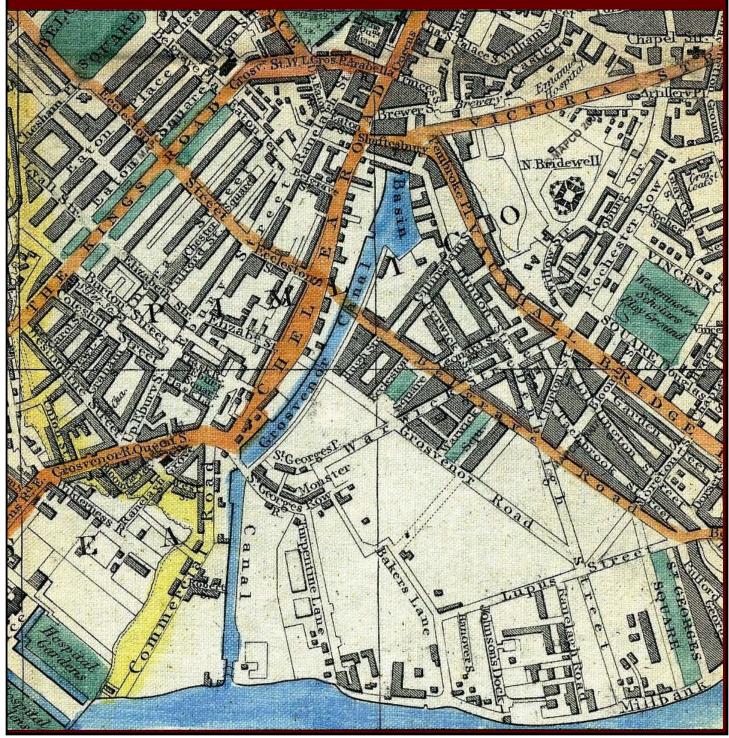


many families kept chickens and rabbits for food, even though their gardens were small. container fixed against the wall, and there was a scoop to ladle out whatever customers ordered into individual paper bags The shop had its own unique smell, mainly because of the chicken feed. The corn chandler's shop was well-used because The corn chandler sold animal food:- bran, corn, maize and other meal and grains. Each type was in its own large wooden

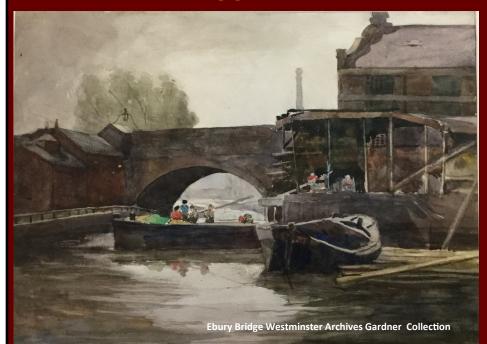
### Why did William Boots live in Pimlico?

A corn chandlers needed good transport links and Pimlico had both rail and canal terminals. The Grosvenor Canal ran from the Thames to where Victoria Station is now. The shortest in London, it opened in 1823 and also served as a supply channel for the Chelsea Waterworks. When Victoria Station opened in 1860 the canal was cut back to Belgrave Road and retreated further still as the number of platforms (15-19) increased. It was the last commercial canal in London carrying rubbish barges until 1995.

### Map Of London 1851 - Cross's London Guide



### What happened to the Grosvenor Canal?





Ebury Bridge is now bricked up where the canal used to pass under.

The Ebury Bridge Estate was built by Westminster Council in 1937. It runs along the line of the old Grosvenor canal.

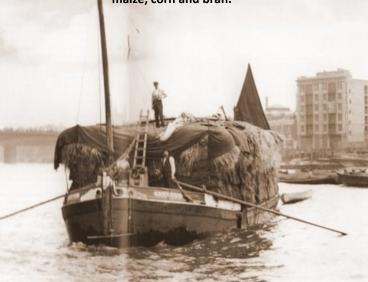




Before Victoria Station this was the canal basin. You can see the Ebury Bridge Estate follows the old line of the canal. A new estate, Grosvenor Waterside has been built at the entrance to the old Grosvenor Canal.

### London's Horse Drawn Traffic Problem

Corn Chandlers were very busy as a working horse had a diet that included hay, oats, maize, corn and bran.





William Boots would have collected horse feed from one of the wharves on the Grosvenor canal which had arrived by barge from the countryside and then deliver it around the Pimlico area by cart.

In 1900 London had 11,000 horse drawn cabs, several thousand buses, each of which required 12 horses per day, a total of more than 50,000 horses and countless other carts. A horse produced 35 pounds of manure per day so the streets were covered, which attracted masses of flies which spread disease. In hot weather the dried manure was blown everywhere so Westminster Council had to employ a lot of street sweepers to deal with the problem.

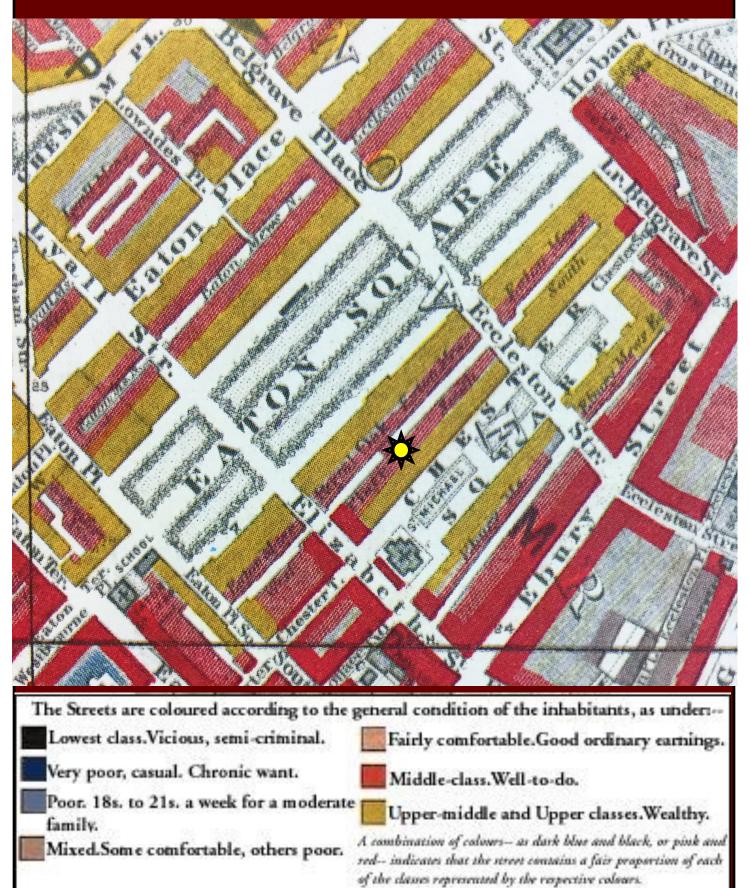




The Times in 1894 estimated that in 50 years every street in London would be buried under nine feet of manure. Moreover, all these horses had to be stabled, which used up ever-larger areas of increasingly valuable land. And as the number of horses grew, ever-more land had to be devoted to producing hay to feed them (rather than producing food for people), and this had to be brought into cities and distributed—by horse-drawn vehicles. It seemed an unsolvable problem.

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Page 17 Declesistial Parish or District of Liekoely	strict Parliamentary Borough or ot Li George U.L.	darries of the ot Rural Sanitary District of	The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the d Urban Sanitary District Town or Village or Hamlet Raral noise of the ot the second se	mentioned Houses are Urban Saukary District	The underme	I Intiget Ward	h <sup>a</sup> d an Alan Municipal Borragh	Administrative County of Lenadore
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	ondon	5	Knightsbridge,	(night	us: k	<b>Census:</b>	: 1891	Source 6:

### Source 7: Charles Booth Map 1889 Royal Oak Place



Westminster Archives 1649/8 Keopened school after a Mainwood aged 4 years died rom measles during 1 he no dessons as usual The week Vendance Slight unferoved. many Children Still away reat hrous Cough w noo kug usual The week duri 24th admissions 5 Berlie Fill aged 5 years died for Uhorpin au: 50.00 England/Wales Mortality Rates Measles 45.00 \* References: Record of mortality in England Scarlet Fever and Wales for 95 years as provided by the Office of National Statistics - Published 1997 Typhoid 40.00 Whooping Cough 35.00 Diphtheria Deaths per 100,000 30.00 25.00 20.00 15.00 10.00 5.00 0.00 ్యార్గ్యం , 06A Year www.healthsentinel.com

### Source 8b: St Michael's C.E. School, Pimlico



### The 6 Standards of Education (1872)

These standards do not match year groups as promotion was on merit, and many children did not complete all the grades.

### **STANDARD I**

Reading	One of the narratives next in order after mono- syllables in an elementary reading book used in the school.
Writing	Copy in manuscript character a line of print, and write from dictation a few common words.
Arithmetic	Simple addition and subtraction of numbers of not more than four figures, and the multiplica- tion table to multiplication by six.

### **STANDARD III**

Reading	A short paragraph from a more advanced read-
Reduing	ing book.
	A sentence slowly dictated once by a few words
Writing	at a time, from the same book.

Arithmetic Long division and compound rules (money).

**STANDARD V** 

Reading

Writing

Arithme-

tic

### **STANDARD II**

Reading	A short paragraph from an elementary read- ing book.
Writing	A sentence from the same book, slowly read once, and then dictated in single words.
Arithmetic	The multiplication table, and any simple rule as far as short division (inclusive).
	STANDARD IV
Reading	A few lines of poetry or prose, at the choice of the inspector.
Reading	
	of the inspector. A sentence slowly dictated once, by a few words at a time, from a reading book, such

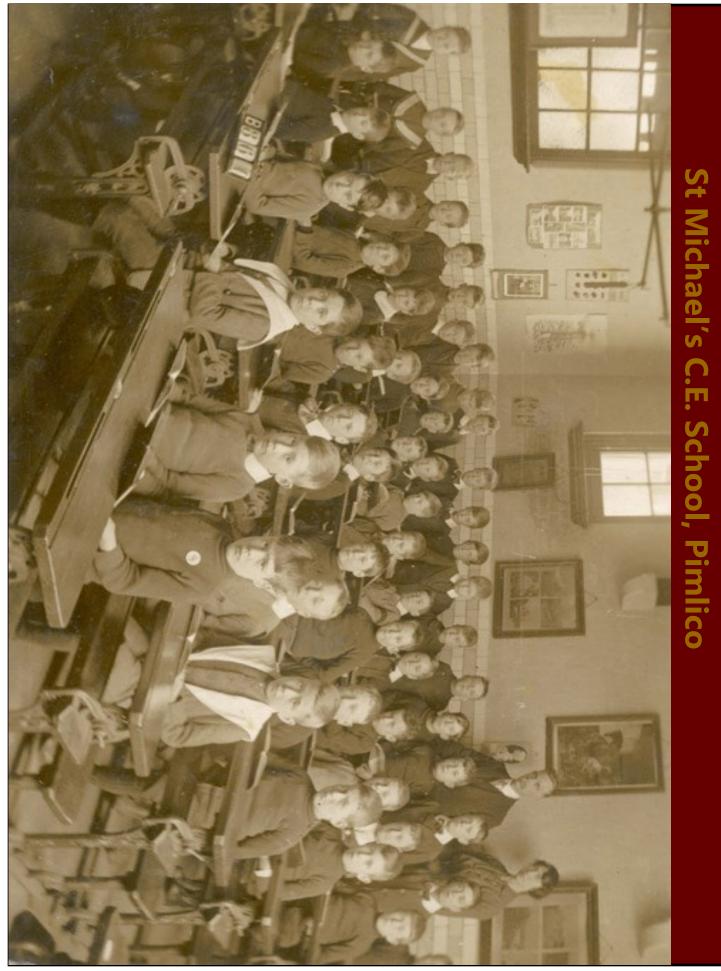
### STANDARD VI

A short ordinary paragraph in a newspaper, or	Reading	To read with fluency and expression.
other modern narrative.		
	Writing	A short theme or letter, or an easy para-
Another short ordinary paragraph in a newspa-	Writing	phrase.
per, or other modern narrative, slowly dictated		
once by a few words at a time.		
	Arithmetic	Proportion and fractions (vulgar and deci-
Practice and bills of parcels.		mal).

### Source 9: St Michael's C.E. School Log Book 1899

Westminster Archives 1649/8 2 1899 Vegetable Kingdom Oak liee, hay lea cocoa, common fruids, buttercup, snowdrop cocoanul cotton, a letter, clock, coral, The Park, Sponge, a glass bottle, Common Objects soap schoolroom. Trades. Carpenter Blacksmith bootmaker I Familian Folko Fireman Postman Division III. Classes. v + vi I hatural History. a animals. Cat & kittens, dog, sheep + lamb, cow, horse, mouse, donkey, Pig Soal- rabbit 6. Birds Henr chickens, duck, robin, sparrow, c. Fish Sold Fish d. Inseets Bee. Coal, Salt, Slate. I Minerals hatural Phenomena The Seasons. Vegetable Kingdom Tea, Sugar, Cocoanul; common fruits; a plant, apple tree, Common Objects Schoolroom, milk, egg, butter, bird's nest- a letter, Doll's House Furnishing: - Kitchen, bed & sitting rooms Carpenter Daker Blacksmith I Familiar Folks Fireman, Post man.

These are the topics that Standards V and VI were meant to study at St Michael's school in 1899. Look at the section labelled 'Familiar Folks.' Why were pupils like Ernest Boots taught about these particular jobs?



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		f	Albert E Boots	Son	22	Carman	Worker	ų,	London Pimlico
248 4 120		X	David H Boots	Son	20	Engine cleaner	Worker	ų,	London Pimlico
			Ernest R Boots	Son	18	Light Porter	Worker	Ϋ́	London Pimlico
Aug 19.		F	Rose E Boots	Daughter	15		Worker	Ľ,	London Pimlico
250 5 00		11	Florence L Boots	Daughter	11		Worker	Ŭ,	London Pimlico
J Houses and of Tene- ments with less than Five Rooms	61 .	6,	George Woodruff	Lodger	44	Stableman groom	Worker	ų	London Pimlico

### When Did Ernest's Father William Die?

BOO-BOU]	DEATHS	registered in April, May, and June 1899.	(	32
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BOOTLAND, George. 39	Leeds 9 b. 297	Elizabeth, 40 Wolverhampton 6 b. 400 George. 55 Bath 5		
BOOTMAN, Florence Annie. 0	Norwich 4b. 108	Ellen Florence. 20 Fylde 8 e. 470 George Henry. 2	C.	40
BOOTON, Annie. 0 Kid	derminster 6 c. 130	George. 68 Woolwich 1 d. 669 Henry Arthur. 1 Doncaster 9	c.	41
Louisa. 31	. Ashby Z. 7a. 51	Hannah. 40 Leicester 7 a. 144 Isaac Watt. 76 Ashton 8		
Boors William, 53 St. (	Heo. H. Sq. 1 a. 310	James. 54	b.	37
BOOTYMAN, Percy Jacob. 19	Plymouth 5 b. 155	Mary. 55 Lichfield 6 b. 284 Mary Ann. 23 Cirencester 6	ja.	25
BORCHARDT, Isaac. 79	. Gainsbro' 7 a. 435	- Mary Ann. 38 Brentford 3 a. 59 - Sarah Ann. 16Stoke T. 6		
BORD, Sarah Ann. 52	Lincoln 7a. 309	Philip Wise. 63 Lambeth 1 d. 254 Thomas. 34 Salford 8		
BORDER, Mary. 85	Spalding 7a. 235	Thomas William. 71 W. Ham 4a. 92 Thomas. 78		
BORDESSA, Louisa. 9	Prescot 8 b. 490	William. 0 Belper 7 b. 388 Violet Lucilla. 7 Shifnal (		
BORDMAN, Annie. 1	Hendon 3a. 145	BOTTEN, Annie Blanche. 9 Barton R. 6a. 139 - William. 0		
BOREHAM, Thomas Harold. 4	Hendon 3a. 136	Frederick. 29Portsea 2 b. 319 BOUND, Alfred. 0Pontypridd 1	11 a.	24

William Booth died in Pimlico in June 1899 at the age of just 53. Carman frequently suffered from ill health according to Charles Booth in his 1891 survey of London:

"Drink is given more often than money, and what money is received most frequently goes to the public-house. It is admitted that carmen are largely addicted to strong drink, but it is not supposed that it plays any considerable part in their sickness and mortality."

"The men suffer from rheumatism and bronchitis, and such illnesses are the most prevalent and dangerous, as on the whole the men are ill provided with warm clothes, presenting in this respect a striking contrast to cab and 'busmen. Old bags are a common makeshift for an overcoat. The railway companies and large private firms almost invariably supply aprons or rugs, but in many cases the men have to find their own, and then they are usually not provided at all. Some firms even refuse to provide cloths for the horses, on the grounds that, if they did, the men would use them!"

"If not incapacitated by actual illness or removed by death, men may continue long at this work. Men of seventy years of age may be found driving vans, and they have been known to work to within a few days of death. With carmen there is no such thing as partial loss of capacity affecting wages, but at sixty a man would find difficulty in getting a job if thrown out of work."



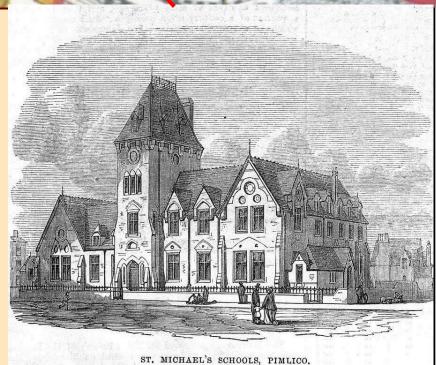


### Source 11: Charles Booth Map Ebury Square 1889

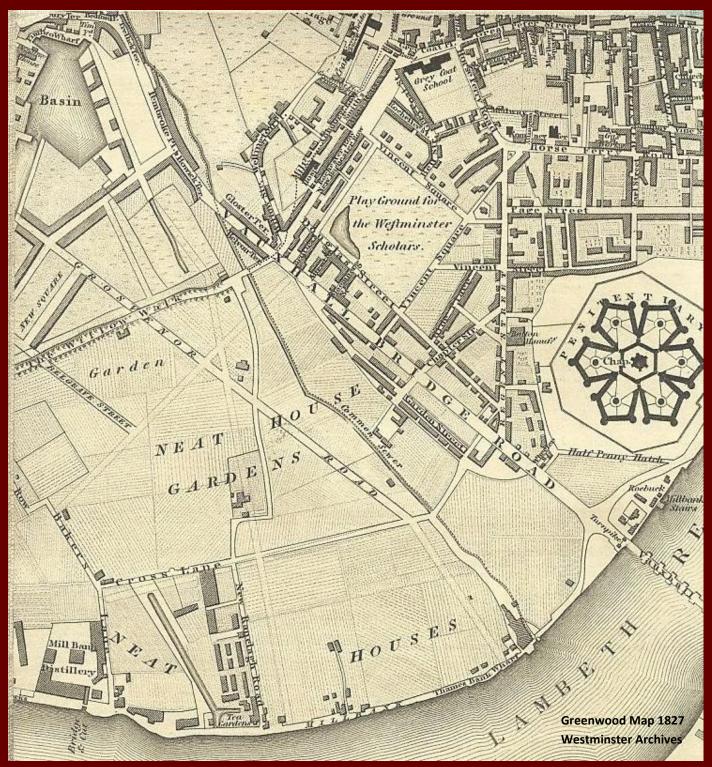


- BLACK: Lowest class. Vicious, semicriminal.
- DARK BLUE: Very poor, casual. Chronic want.
- LIGHT BLUE: Poor. 18s. to 21s. a week for a moderate family
  - PURPLE: Mixed. Some comfortable others poor
- **PINK:** Fairly comfortable. Good ordinary earnings.
  - RED: Middle class. Well-to-do.
  - YELLOW: Upper-middle and Upper classes. Wealthy.

A combination of colours - as dark blue or black, or pink and red - indicates that the street contains a fair proportion of each of the classes represented by the respective colours.



### Why was Pimlico such an area of poverty?

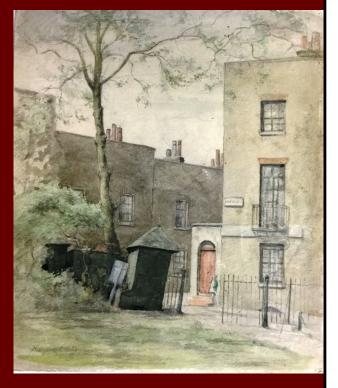


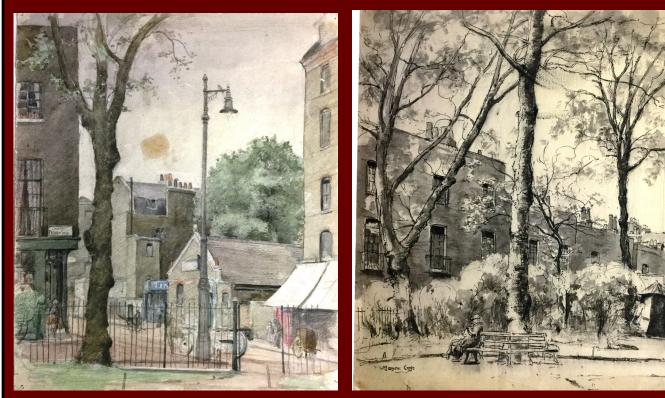
In 1825, Thomas Cubitt was contracted by Lord Grosvenor to develop Pimlico to rival Belgravia. Unfortunately its riverside location worked against this aim. If the noxious smells of its polluted industrial riverside were not reason enough for the rich to avoid the area, Pimlico's Millbank Prison made sure they did. It had declined significantly during Ernest Boot's childhood so that the area around Ebury Square had pockets of real poverty.

### Source 12A: Ebury Square Now and Then



This is The Flask Tavern painted by J.P. Emslie in 1883 when Ernest Boots was born. Westminster Archives Gardner Box 60 No 28





Traditionally Pimlico was named after Ben Pimlico brewer of a popular nut brown ale. These pencil and crayon drawing by Marjorie Croft, were painted in 1932, but show Ebury Square much as it would have looked when Ernest Boots lived there.

Westminster Archives C138

### Source 12B: Ebury Square Now and Then



**4 bedroom apartment for sale** Ebury Square, Belgravia

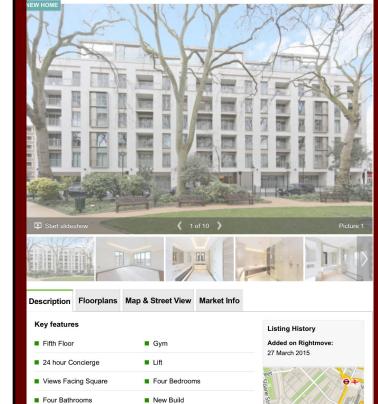
Secure Gates Parking

£12,450,000

### Ebury Square flats for sale in 2016.

Ebury Square was laid out in 1820 on a former nursery garden formerly Eabery Farm, owned by Elizabeth I, then the Grosvenor family. It has been open to the public since 1884. The terraced houses Ernest lived in were badly bombed in WW2, so none of the original houses survive.

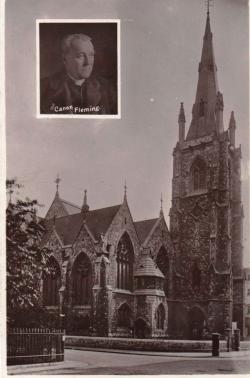




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Boots 1905		Source 13: Wedding Certificate for Ernest	ificate	Cert	ding (	ed c	13: W	Jrce	Sot

### St Michael's C.E. Church Chester Square



RAPID PHOTO, E.C. ST. MICHAELS CHURCH, CHESTER SQUARE, S.W. 407

St Michael's Chester Square in 1905 and 2016

The vicar of St Michael's when Ernest and Sarah married was Canon Fleming. He took a great interest in helping the poor and helped to establish the school and a convalescent home for sick children in Birchington, Kent.

Source 14: Death Certificate Sarah Jane		Elisabeth Boots	
CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH		GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE Application Number 7363207-2	STER OFFICE
REGISTRATION DISTRICT	CHELSEA		
1910 DEATH in the Sub-district of Chelsea South		County of London	
Columns: 1 2 3 4 5	6	6 8 4	
No. When and Name and surname Sex Age Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and When Signature of residence of informant registered registrar	of
1 Supplieret Jarah Unal 13 Sunghlar of Starting	Bunche Junumonia Bulified by Joencar Hillesall	6. R. Booth Valler Cuphtenth So. S. Mounda, Vou petter Movember Bogistrar.	
71Eighteenth NovemberSarah JaneFemale 1313Daughter of Ernest Richard Boots1910VictoriaFlisabeth Bootsmths Borough Council LabourerBoots Borough Council Labourer	Bronchial Pneumonia Certified by Horace Tattersall M.D.	E R Boots Father In attendance 15 Victoria Dwellings Battersea	
Dwellings Battersea			RECEI
DYE U19492         CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE ©CROWN COPYRIGHT         7941935 \$13184 10015 WLALITYS             YMARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.	TO FALSIFYING OR ALT E CERTIFICATE <sup>©</sup> CROWN NOT EVIDENCE OF	See note overleaf COPYRIGHT IDENTITY. JAC	GENERAL States Anno + 701110

### Victoria Hospital for Sick Children



Victoria Hospital for Sick Children was opened in 1866 in Tite Street, Chelsea when a group of wealthy residents raised funds to convert Gough House into a hospital for 'poor afflicted children'. The first medical officer was Sir William Jenner, physician to Queen Victoria. It was enlarged in 1875. By 1890 the out patients department was treating 1,500 children a week. New buildings were added in 1905 providing 100 beds. It became part of the St George's Hospital group and moved to the main hospital in Tooting in 1964. This photograph shows the hospital shortly before its demolition in 1966.

### **Report on Public Health in Battersea 1905**

During the last eighteen months, as a result of a personal inspection by the Medical Officer of Health, extensive structural improvements have been carried out in the Victoria Dwellings in Battersea Park Road. The chief features of these alterations are as follows :—

775 feet of drainage has been re-constructed, and 15 access chambers provided. 79 water closets with 20 soil pipes and ventilation pipes have been provided in place of old and defective apparatus. 189 new glazed stoneware sinks have been provided, each sink being fixed with a 2-inch

galvanized iron trap connected to a 2-inch pipe discharging into a gully in the open air. Two large drying yards, one 873 square yards, the other 213 square yards in area have been paved, and 64 square yards of forecourt have also been paved. The covers of 20 drinking water cisterns have been repaired. 139 rooms have been cleansed, the staircases have been cleansed, repaired, and more freely ventilated, and 7 cases of over-crowding have been dealt with. Six large and 189 small dust receptacles have been provided in place of 16 dust shoots which have been cleansed, lime-whited, filled up and the openings sealed with brickwork or concrete. It should be said that these alterations, involving the expenditure of a considerable sum of money, were readily carried out by the Victoria Dwellings Association, who appeared to be anxious to do whatever was necessary to improve the sanitary condition of the dwellings.

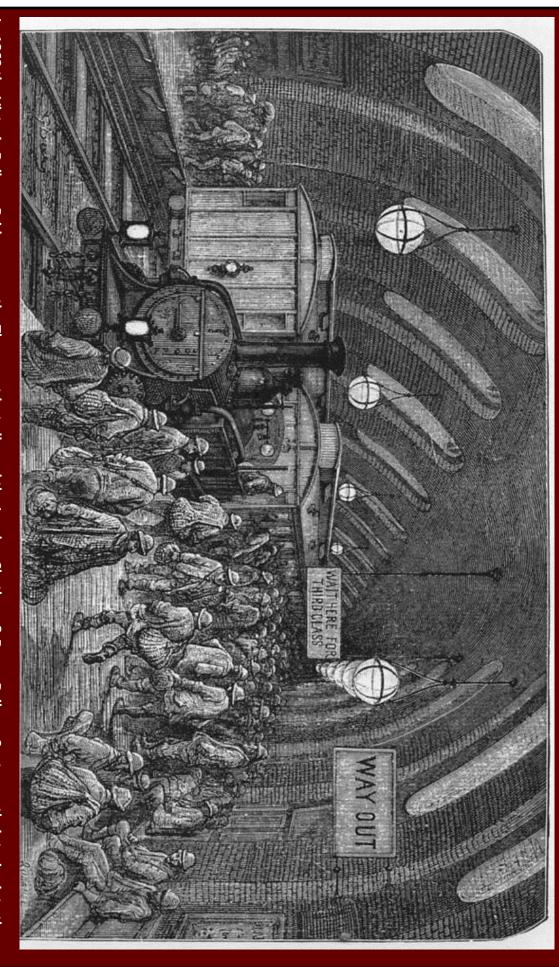
One of the most important of the improvements effected was the abolition of the dust shoots. Dust collection, at its best, is not one of the most satisfactory features of London sanitation; but of all the defective systems now in use the most unsatisfactory is that of casting the refuse down a dark and evil-smelling shaft, which forms part of the dwelling, into a still more repellent hole below. Yet this system is far from uncommon. Each tenement in the Victoria Dwellings is now still more repellent hole below. Yet this system is far from uncommon. Each tenement in the Victoria Dwellings is now provided with a small dust receptacle, the contents of which are emptied every day into a larger receptacle in the courtyard, and the contents of the latter receptacle are removed by the Council three times a week. The Metropolitan Artizans' and Labourers' Dwellings Association bought some of the land around Battersea Park from the Crown at £1,600 per acre. Battersea Park had been established in the 1850s and the station for the Brighton and Chatham Railway was opened in 1867. The area was also being developed by others such as the Artizans' and **General Labourers' Dwellings** Company (who built Shaftesbury Estate). Charles Barry Junior was Architect to the Association, which also had dwellings in King's Cross and later became known as the Victoria Dwellings Association.

The Victoria Dwellings, Battersea Park Road were demolished in 1983. New social housing managed by The Peabody Estate (pictured below.) has taken the place of the three tene-



### Wellcome Library

*The Workmen's Train*. Gustave Doré *London*, 1872



sequently, workmen's trains were introduced by The Cheap Trains Act 1883 obliged the railways to operate a larger number of cheap trains with 3rd class travel. This allowed the working class men like Ernest Boots to commute to work. heart of London. Vast areas of slums were pulled down to create the London railway system leading to thousands of displaced people. Con-In 1862 the Victoria Railway Bridge across the Thames at last allowed the London Chatham & Dover Railway Co. to run their trains into the

### Source 16: Charles Booth Map Battersea



Lowest class.Vicious, semi-criminal.

Fairly comfortable.Good ordinary earnings.

Upper-middle and Upper classes.Wealthy.

Very poor, casual. Chronic want.

Middle-class.Well-to-do.

Poor. 18s. to 21s. a week for a moderate family.

Mixed.Some comfortable, others poor.

A combination of colours— as dark blue and black, or pink and red— indicates that the street contains a fair proportion of each of the classes represented by the respective colours.



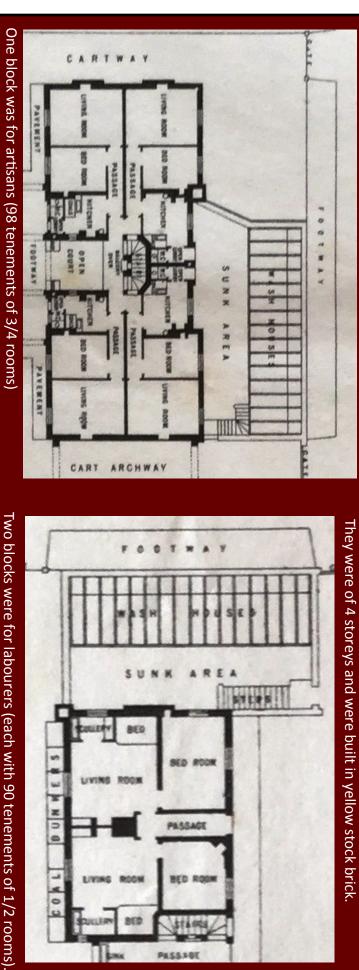
Victoria Dwellings (since demolished) were three blocks of working-class flats erected in 1876 –1877 by the newly formed Metropolitan Artizans' & Labourers' Dwellings Association whose main purpose was to rehouse working-class Londoners evicted through slum clearance.

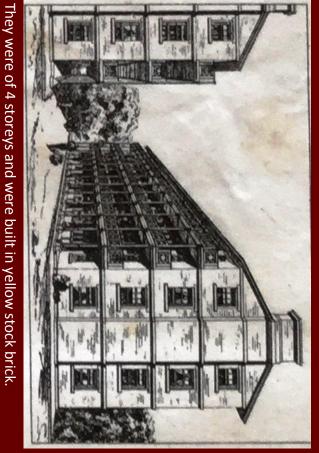
# Source 17: The Building News June 16th 1876

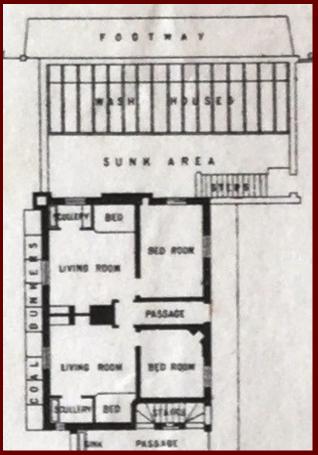
as these plans show. Artisans were seen as a better class of worker as they were skilled. They were given better accommodation



# The buildings consisted of 3 blocks.







### What was the Model Dwellings Movement?

As London's population grew the working classes found it hard to afford to live in central London. Model Dwellings Companies (MDCs) were formed to build new homes for them for a small profit. George Peabody led the way with "five per cent philanthropy." Many were aimed at artisans or skilled workers to keep them in central London. Ernest, as an unskilled worker, was fortunate to get one of the workers flats at Battersea.

	Population of Battersea from 1831 to 1911									
1831	1841	1851	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911		
5,540	6,887	10,560	19,600	54,016	107,262	150,558	168,907	167,743		

### The Health of M.B. Battersea 1905. Wellcome Library

### Block Dwellings.

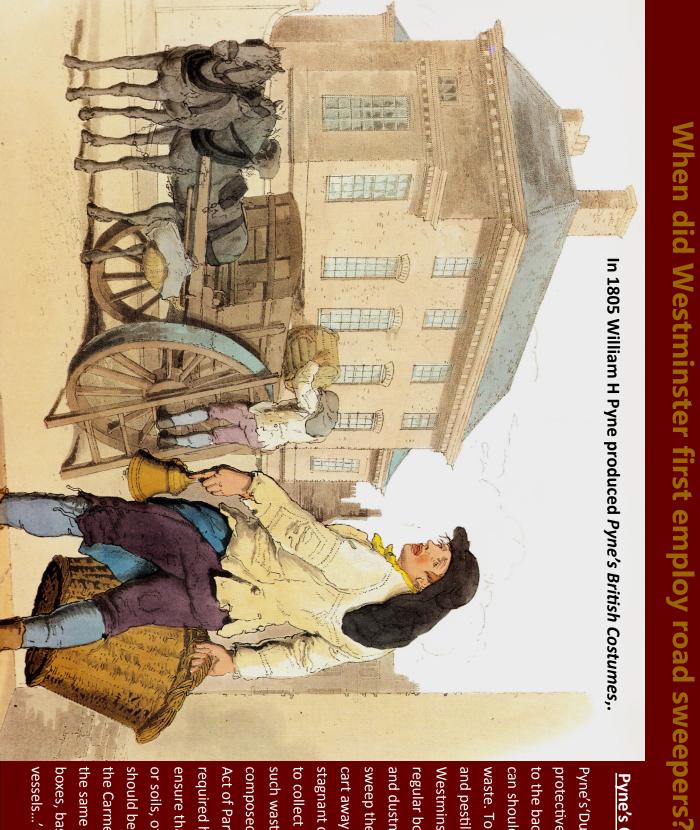
The following is a list of the artizans' dwellings of the "block" type in Battersea with the number of tenements in each:—

Name of Buildings.	Situation.	Owner.	No. of tenements.
Battersea Bridge Buildings	Bridge Road	London County Council	69
Durham Buildings	York Road	"	108
Victoria Dwellings	Battersea Park Road	Victoria Dwell- ings Asso., Ltd.	189
Lombard Dwellings	Lombard Road	Exors.of Francis Ravenscroft	36
Shaftesbury Chambers	Ashbury Road	Artizans, &c., Dwellings Co.	22





Model housing such as the Shaftesbury Park estate (above), Battersea were built for the skilled workers or artizans. In the north of Westminster there is a similar estate at Queen's Park pictured left. This quality of housing was unheard of for the working class but was only for the 'better,' more deserving class of worker.'



### <u>Pyne's Costumes 1805</u>

boxes, baskets, or other the same overnight in tubs, the Carmen, by setting out should be in readiness for or soils, of their houses ensure that 'the dirt, ashes, composed the dunghills.' An such waste materials as to collect from door to door stagnant dirt; and the latter, sweep the open streets, and and dustmen, the former to regular body of scavengers, and pestilence the City of can shoulder the baskets of to the back of his hat so he protective leather attached Pyne's'Dustman' shows the Act of Parliament in 1670 cart away the filth, and Westminster appointed 'a waste. To prevent plague vessels... required householders to

### Source 18: City of Westminster Road Sweeper



A Carman sits on his council dust cart at the Monck Street Depot. WCC:Acc0152/5/1/7



When Ernest Boots began work as a Westminster City Council's street cleaner he had to report at 5am each morning at the Monck Street depot to collect his barrow.

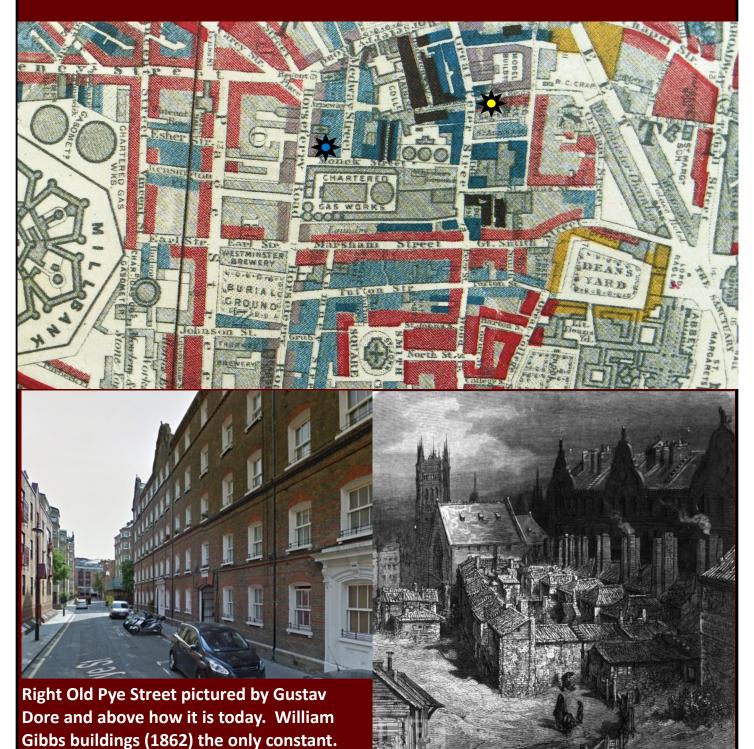
WCC:Acc0152/5/1/7

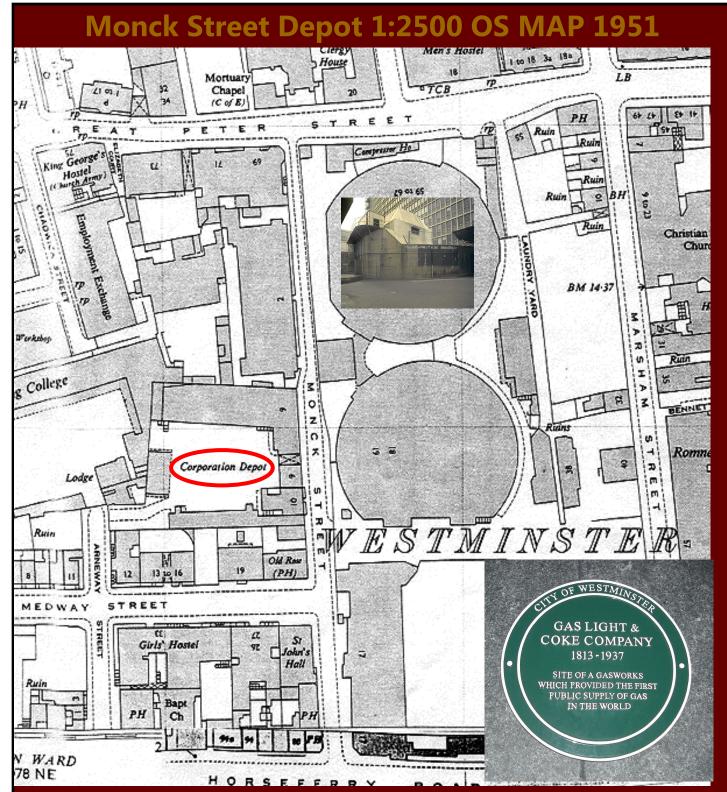
### Where was the Monck Street Depot?

### When Ernest worked for Westminster as a road sweeper he was based in Monck Street-(shown with a blue star). Monck Street was in a notorious area called the Devil's Acre.

### In Ragged London (1861,) John Hollingshead described St Anne's Place in the Devil's Acre

'The yards at the back of the houses contain little mountains of ashes and vegetable refuse; and a dust contractor's yard, in the centre of the street, seems to have burst its bounds, and to have nearly poured out its oyster-shells, cabbage-stalks, and broken china into the open thoroughfare.'





There had been a private dust yard in the Monck Street area before the council established its depot mentioned by Holingshead's 'Ragged London'in 1861. On the opposite side of the road to the depot were the two gas holders of the world's first public suppliers of gas, The Gas Light and Coke Company. These two gas holders were built in 1877 and demolished in 1937 leaving two very large circular holes in the ground. During the Blitz the huge holes left by the demolished gas holders were converted into the North and South Rotundas capable of surviving a direct hit from a 500 lb bomb. They housed key intelligence staff from the Air Ministry and during the V weapon threat later in the war Churchill himself moved in the North Rotunda which became known as Anson and was connected to Downing Street by a tunnel.

### Source 19: Horse Drawn versus Motor Vehicles



Horse and steam powered dust carts at the Monck Street Depot in 1912. WCC:Acc0152/5/1/7

### **MORE WAGONS FOR WESTMINSTER**

Mr. Arthur Ventris, the assistant city engineer and surveyor of Westminster, is in immediate charge of this great city's motor vehicles. He has communicated to us that the Council is now thoroughly convinced of the superiority of motor haulage, after a bitter and prolonged struggle between horse and motor interests, and that. it has recently put on order four more Leyland petrol wagons. The horse is shown to be handsomely beaten: **Commercial Motor 16th July 1908:** 

As regards the question of the cost of motor haulage, in comparison with horse haulage, the following table is submitted by the Assistant City Engineer :—" The figures given (exclusive of capital cost) are based on the assumption that one motor working day and. night is equal to five horses (2 1/2 horses day work, and 2 1/2 horses night work)—

### Horses

	£	S	d
Fodder for 5 horses, at 12s. per week each	156	0	0
Shoeing, at £3 10s each per annum	17	10	0
Wages of 5 carmen, at 28s. per week	364	0	0
Hiring of 5 horses and drivers, at 8s. 8d. per day (243 days)	526	0	0
	<u>£1,064</u>	0	0
Two Motors	5.		
Wages of 4 motor drivers, at 355. per week	364	0	0
Coke, say 36 cwt. per week per motor (48 weeks)	166	0	0
Oils and sundries	28	0	0
Repairs, at £65 per motor	130	0	0
	688	0	0
Estimated annual saving by using 2 motors	376	0	0
	£1,064	0	0

### Source 20: Westminster'S Rubbish Collection





Motor vehicles from Monck Street 1912. WCC:Acc0152/5/1/7

### COMMERCIAL MOTOR AND STEAM VEHICLES.

### ANNUAL LONDON PARADE.

THE eighth annual parade of motor and steam vehicles in connection with the Commercial Motor Users' Association, which is identified with the Royal Automobile Club, took place yesterday morning in Grosvenor Road, Westminster. The number of vehicles entered for competition was 520 (compared with 372 last year), and they were drawn up in a line extending from the Houses of Parliament to Vauxhall Bridge, and along many of the side streets, the whole being about 2 miles in length.

There were specimens from some of the earlier types of all classes of commercial vehicles up to the most modern in construction and appliances. On the occasion of the first parade at the Thames Embankment in December 1907 the display consisted of 26 steam vehicles only, and the parade has annually increased until the present year's record, which yesterday comprised 384 petrol, driven vehicles. 111 steam vans, and 13 electrically-driven vans. The value of the exhibits was estimated at £322,000, and the value of the prizes amounted to £500.

### The Scotsman - Tuesday 2nd June 1914

The Whitsun Parade was held on the 1st June, a public holiday and ended outside the Tate. WCC:Acc0152/5/1/7

### What happened to Westminster's rubbish in 1911?

eston St

Sutherland St

Ranelagh Gardens ۲

pimlico Rd

32

oane St

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N308

Oakley St

Sloane Ave

A32

A3212

8302

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CHELSEA

is gis Rd

ARd



Queen

Road

From 1910 Westminster's rubbish was taken to Gatliff Road Pimlico and was then taken by barge along the Grosvenor **Canal to the Thames** where the rubbish was sent down river to east London for landfill and brick making. The site cost £250,000.

Verry Rd

A32

NineElmsLn

A3205

13036

A202

A3213 St. George's Dr Lupus St O

River Thames

12

θ

SLan

Gatliff Road Waste Transfer Westminster Archives

### What happened to Westminster's rubbish in 1911?



Westminster's rubbish left via the Grosvenor Canal. For many years this was from the Gatliff Road depot.





Sailing barges took some rubbish straight to infill in low lying marshy areas like Pitsea in Essex, whilst some was sorted for the estuary brick makers.



Cinders from Westminster fireplaces were mixed with clay to make London stock bricks in Kent and Essex from London clay (see below). These were fired in kilns that burnt the remaining rubbish.

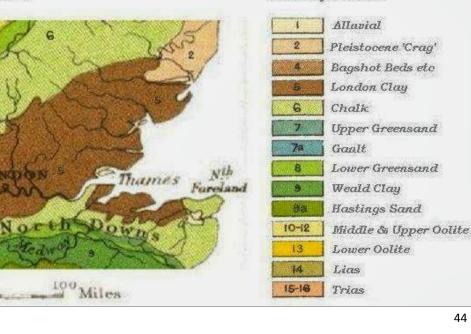


The finished bricks were shipped back to London by the same sailing barges that had transported the rubbish. They were used to meet the insatiable demand for bricks as London grew rapidly.

The Geology of the London Basin

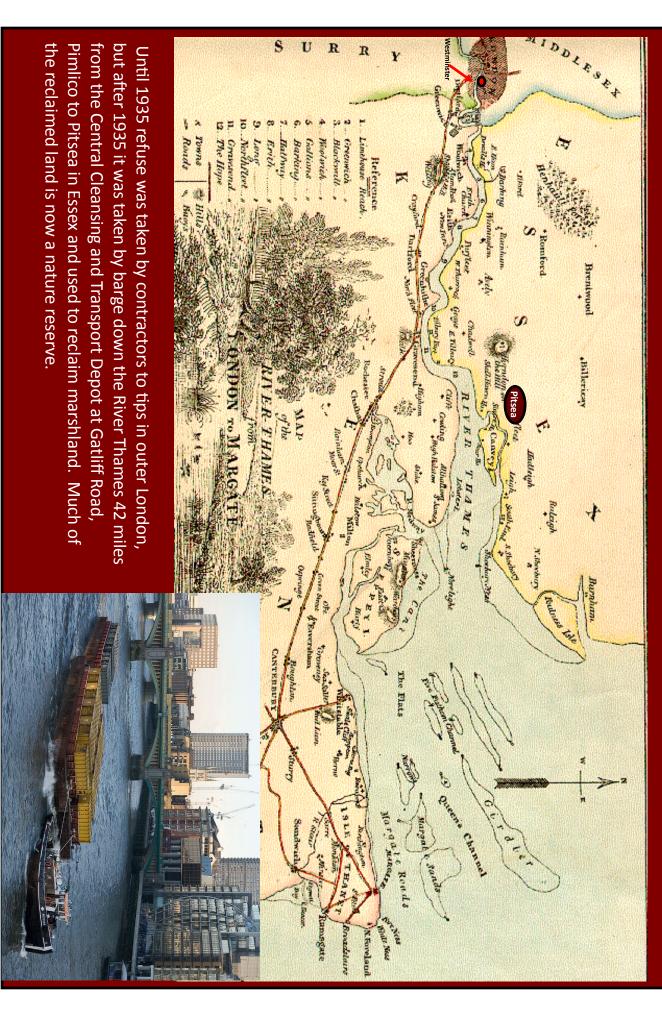
50

10-12

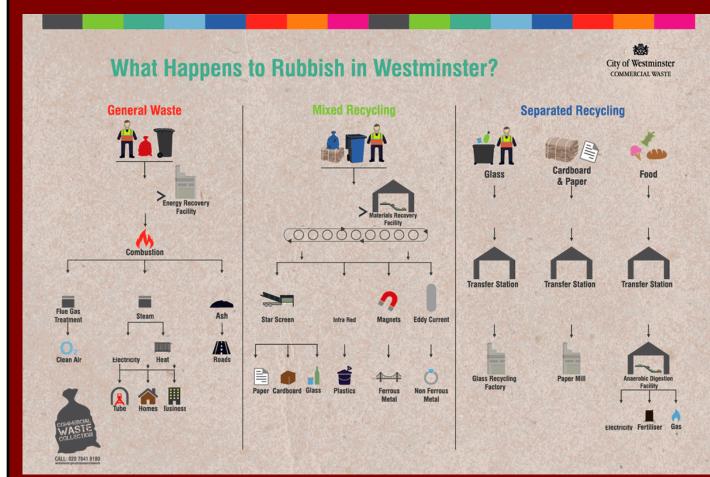


Index of Colours





### What happens to Westminster's rubbish now?



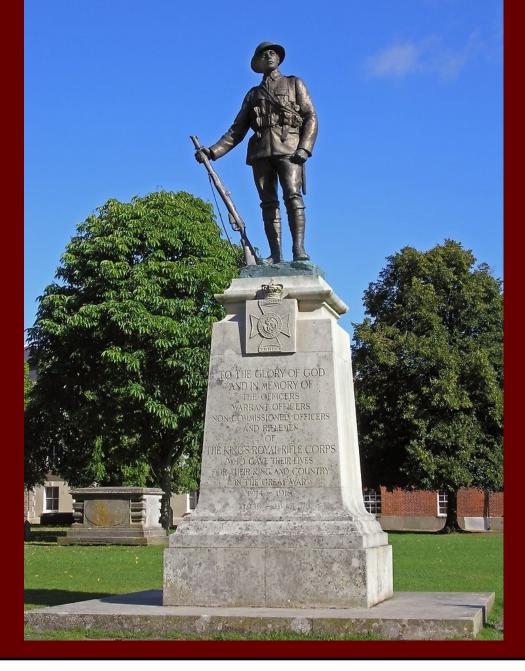


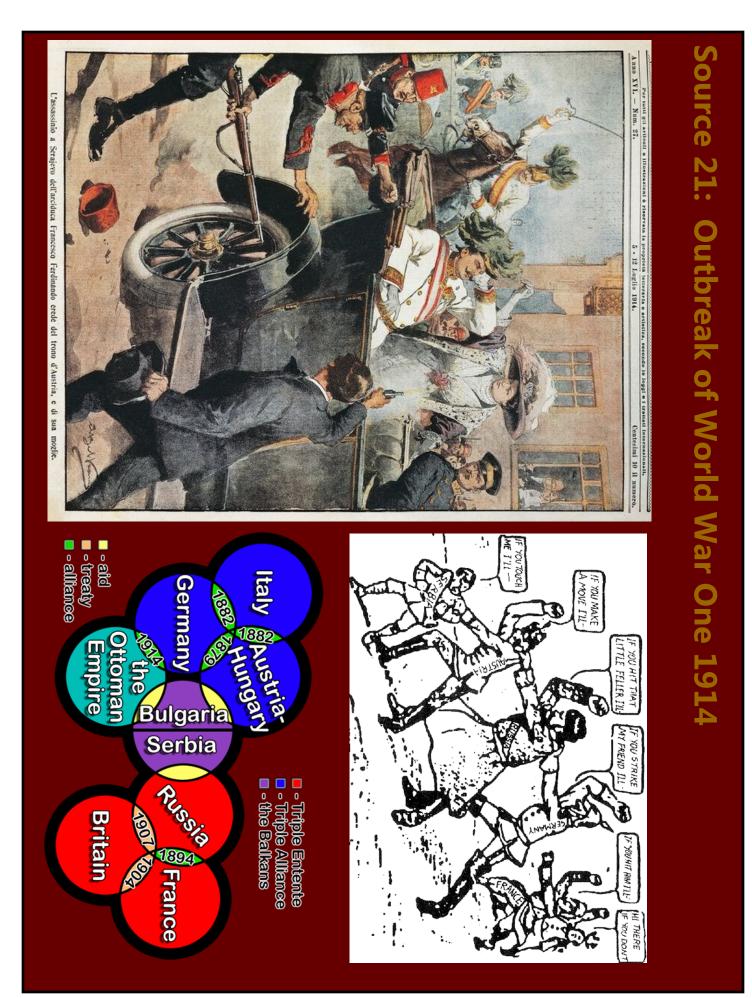
Residual waste (the waste that can't or shouldn't be recycled) is delivered under a long term contract to South East London Combined Heat and Power, a waste fired power station in Deptford. Here waste is burned to generate green electricity for around 50,000 London



### Ernest Boot's The Soldier

King's Royal Rifles memorial Winchester Hampshire





TELEPHONE: REGENT 8020 15 LIN

A.S.

City of Mestminster.

ARTHUR VENTRIS A.M.I.C.E. ASSISTANT CITY ENGINEER & SURVEYOR, SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS DEPT TELEPHONE Nº 291 CENTRAL

Sir.

LAT Materics au

BHORN

TELEGRAMS:"TUDOROSE WESTRAND, LONDON"

PAYMAST

Highways Department, City Hall.

14/4/1915.

Charing Cross :

I understand that Ernest Richard Boots is desirous of joining the Army and that it is necessary for him to have the permission of the Council which I beg to state he obtained.

Yours faithfully

Engineer, Highways Department

The Recuiting Sergeant.

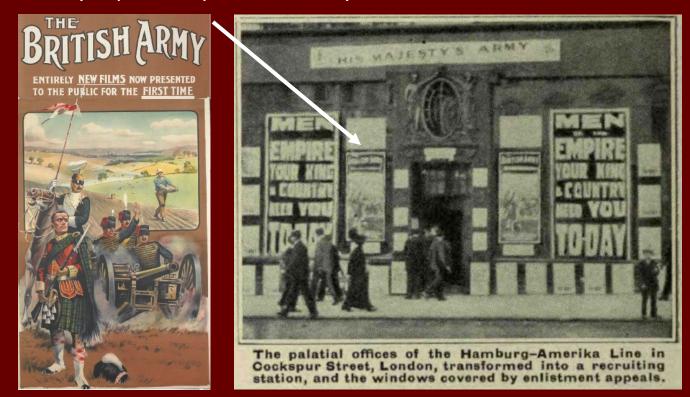
Ernest decided to volunteer for the army but could not join up without the permission of his employers Westminster Council. He obtained permission from the Council's Chief Engineer Arthur Ventis who was responsible for the Cleansing Department at the Council. rce

SHOR (For the Duration of the War). ATTESTAT Boots Corps &.R ame Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment. 1.6 ment hat is your name?..... 1 2. 1.6.5 2. What is your full Address? ..... testat 3. 3. Are you a British Subject ?..... Months. 4. 4. What is your Age ?..... 5. 5. What is your Trade or Calling ? ..... 6. 6. Are you Married ? ... ... ... 7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so,\* state particulars? no 7A. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... 8. 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated ? ..... 9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service ? . . . . . 9. Name .... 10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its 10. Corps meaning, and who gave it to you ?..... 11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services ? . . . . . . For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. If employed with Hospitals, pots of Mounted Units, and as Clerks, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hos ilities until your services can be spared, but up retention shall in no case exceed six months. 11 \_do solemnly declare that the above answers 0010 ohar est. 1 an 1 a willing to fulfil the engagements made. made byme to the above questions are true, and t SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT. rest Richard Book Signature of Witness. STA ION. RECRUIT ON A' OATH TO BE and total water swear by Almighty God, that I will sors, and that I will, as in duty bound, nity against all enemies, and will ob ers set over me. So help me God. cha ō 6 2 01 the Fifth, Iis He be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His H essors, in rson ors, and c he serve and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heir ER. 1STRATE CERTIFICATE of the above questions he would be The Recruit above named was cautioned b liable to be punished as provided in the Army The above questions were then read to th if he ma' and th as been duly entered as foplind to, and I have taken care that he understands easy ant m C d take the said Recruit has made and signed the de 10 day of on this Signature vificate of filled up, and that the required forms appear to Recruit is I certify that this Attestation of the al have been complied with, I accordingly and appoi enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation 3 (or othe Army F If enlisted by special authority, Approving Officer min affixed in the presence of the Recruit. The sign: t has been enlisted.

### What was a Soldier's Attestation?

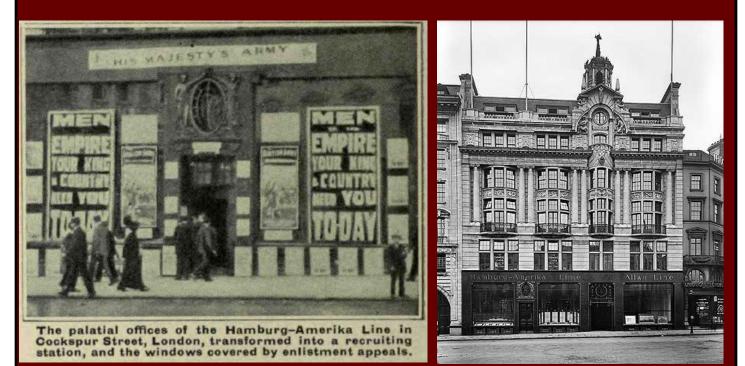


Your attestation was the moment you took the oath to serve king and country. We know Ernest took his at Cockspur street because the enlistment office is listed by his signature. He must have passed the windows and felt pressure to follow the instructions plastered on the posters 'Men of the Empire. Your King & Country Need You. Enlist Today.' Either side of the door is an unofficial recruiting poster, which was a re-cycled pre-war film poster about the army:



### Where did Ernest sign up for the army?

Early in the Great War, the British Government were able to take extraordinary steps against German citizens and businesses. In 1914-15 many Germans were interned and the Government also commandeered the headquarters of German owned shipping line Hamburg-Amerika, 14-16 Cockspur Street, Westminster. This had been built by the trans Atlantic shipping company in 1906.



The company's name was removed from the top and a banner with 'HIS MAJESTY'S ARMY' erected in its place. Likewise the windows have been boarded up and plastered with recruiting messages – with the words 'Men of the Empire. Your King & Country Need You. Enlist Today.'



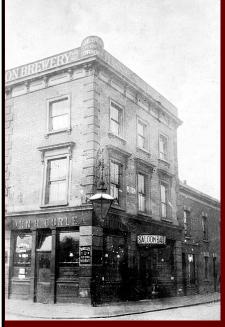
14-16 Cockspur Street was sold to P.O. for £60,200 in 1917. It is now the Brazilian Embassy.

Height 140 en fully expanded \_inches. ange of expansion\_ inches. the marks Complexion fresh, eyes brown, Hair black, dimpled INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY RECRUIT. 165 Stuar arah ann. Boots. - No and Address of next of kin tersed w | Relationship\_ Particulars as to Marriage. (a) Christian and Surname of Woman to whom married and whether spinster or widow. (c) Present address. (d) Initials of Officer verifying entry. (b) Place and date of marriage. (d) London . 24 th Septemberry + Roo hann Edins ter Particulars as to Children. Christian Names Date and Place of Birtu Ernest William John 2nd Feb 1906 London Willion Condon 2 Jel 1906. William Robert 10th Mar1907 Wandsworth 12. Jakt Woude 904 Rose Emmeline 16th May 1911 Wandsworth En mel 1011 Daisy Violet 11th Sep1912 Wandsworth 1 1912 Vio P 2nd Dec1912 Wandsworth Ivv Maud 1916. 200 Ded gry STATEMENT OF THE SERVICES. đ 10 Service in Re-Service not al-Signature of Officers Corps in Regt. or which served Depot Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, ao. owed to reckor Army Rank certifying correcteess of entries for fixing the Dates to reckon torate of pension wards G. C. Pa years | days years | days Service towards limited engagement reckons from 14 18 april 1915 K.R.R. attested Rfn 5th Btn 14.4.15 Tahri 11915 Posted Rfn 6th Btn 23.4.15 Joined 26.7.15 Transferred 15 Posted 2nd Btn 31.5.16 15 1.7.16 **Killed in Action** British War Medal Victory Medal 6-1-1 12 storr Meda FOR COL RIFLE RECORDS. Total Service forfeited as above

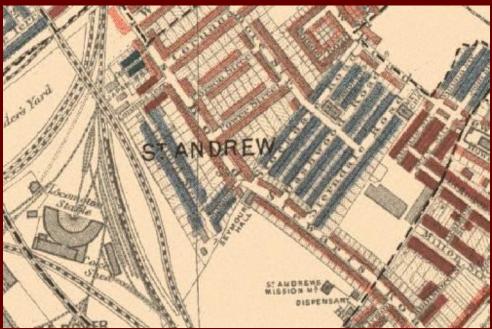
### Where was Ernest Boot's Last Family Home?



Inset the terraced housing Ernest lived in and Stewarts Road, Battersea, today

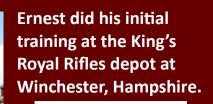


Duke of Cornwall pub, Stewarts Road, Battersea



**Booth coloured Stewarts Road's terraced housing pink** 

### Where did Ernest train with the K.R.R.?



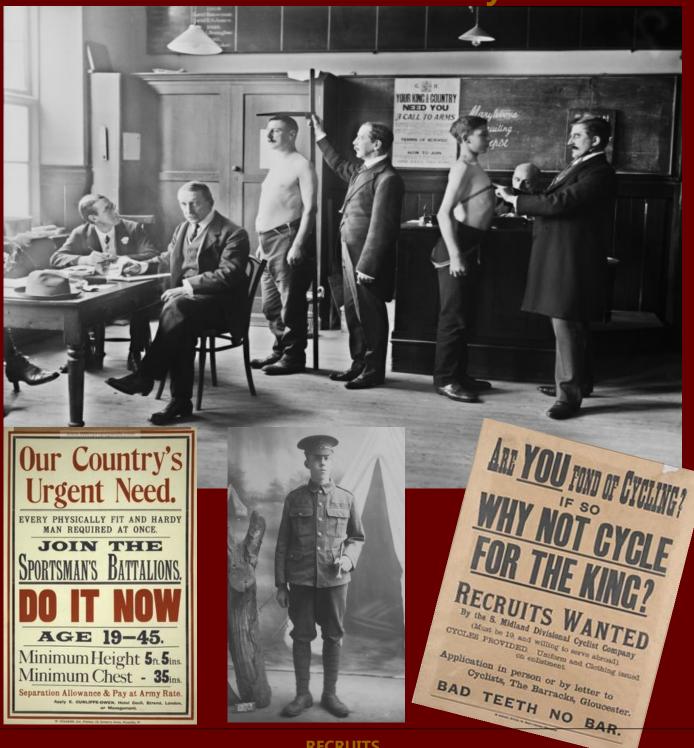
ELER ET AUDA



The King's Royal Rifles were often in London on recruitment parades such as this one in November 1915.

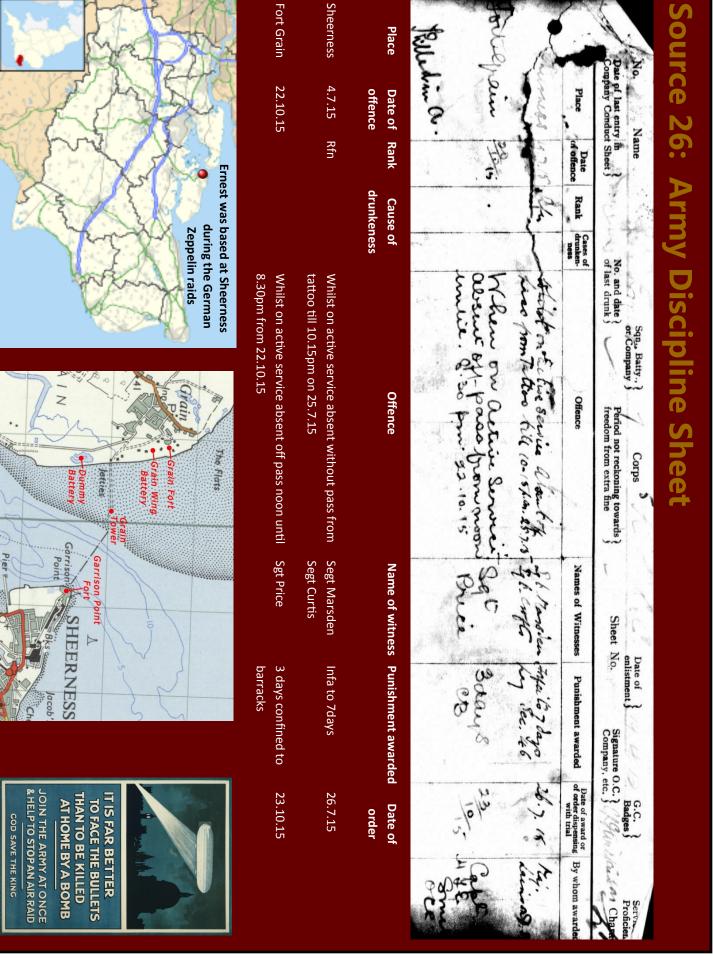
a dana	EDICAL HISTORY of	9.7
Birthplace Parish Ord	TABLE IGENERAL TABLE. Delgran a County Meddlesen	
	on day of 1 4AP 015	191
	tLONDON.	
eclared Age	32 years day	s.
Trade or Occupation	fabres,	
Height	<u>5</u> feet, <u>7</u> <del>2</del> Fincher	
Weight	146 lbs	s.
Chest Girth when fully Expanded	40 inches	s. 👔
Measurement Range of Expansion		s. 2
Physical Development	Good	
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Vuccination Marks	,	and the second
	In farry	
V sion $\ldots \ldots \ldots \begin{cases} 1 \\ 1 \end{cases}$	R.EV = <b>6</b>	
(a) Marks indicating con- genital peculiarities or previous disease	a)	
(b) Slight defects but not ( sufficient to cause rejec- (	b)	
tion		A.C.
Approved by (Signature)		en de la constante de la consta Nome de la constante de la const
(Rank)	C.G. Swan	l Officer.
	- Si Aller	
fr.1:	t Candon.	- 12
Enlisted $\ldots$ $\ldots$ $\left\{ c \right\}$	n 14 day of april	_ 191
Joined on Enlistment	Oorps. Regtl. N RRRC. 1169	
Transferred to		
Became non-effective by	Rilled in Action	
	a 1th day of July	

### **Source 25: Medical History**



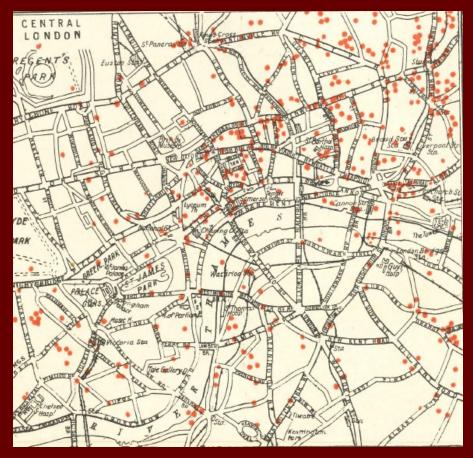
### RECRUITS

The average height of the recruit back in 1914 was around 5ft 5in, with anyone above 5ft 7in (1m 70cm) like Ernest Boots something more of a rarity. Many more were 'shorter' so they created 'Bantam' battalions for men between 5ft-5ft 3in in height. Average weight would have been around 8 stone (51kg). Average age was round 30+ in 1914 (original BEF), later, it would go as low as 18 & as high as 51 years of age (many lied). Many men were that 'under-nourished' that with the army physical training & '3 square meals a day', within their first year they put on a stone in weight & grew by about 2 inches (5cm). The poor health of recruits in WW1 and WW2 was a factor in the creation of the National Health Service.





The Guns at Sheerness and Grain were the first line of defence for London against attack from Zeppelin airships in 1915. Ernest would have experienced these attacks reported in the Daily Mail.





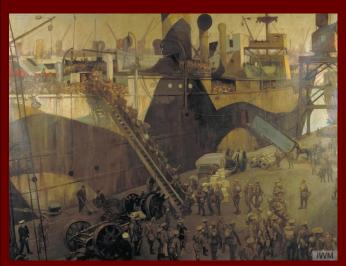
IT IS FAR BETTER TO FACE THE BULLETS THAN TO BE KILLED AT HOME BY A BOMB JOIN THE ARMY AT ONCE & HELP TO STOP AN AIR RAID

The first enemy bomb in Westminster fell on the Lyceum Theatre at 9.26 p.m. on the 13th October, 1915, and the last on No. 26A, King Street, St James, at 12.30 a.m. on 20th May 1918.

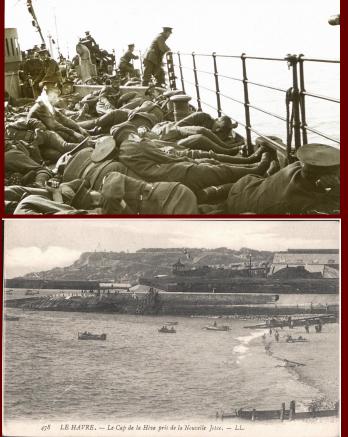
The City of Westminster reported 78 fatalities and 167 injuries due to WW1 raid raids. Its bomb map shows 54 bombs dropped (22 on 18 December 1917 alone) and 60 other sites where damage was caused by dud bombs or anti-aircraft shells.

### **Source 27: Embarkation for France**

	0,0005-150. & G. Forms B. 105/1.	-Active Servi	e	R BIMAL
marks Div Dorm L. 916 A 80 r Other	Baint or Corps Mins	is Royales te	R. Provision	Shine Matter of Manager Reparts
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Date of promotion present rank	Date of appoint to lance ran	iment	ro	erical position on
Extended	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, easualties, etc., during active service, as	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B, 213, Army Form A. 36, or other
Date From whom received	authority to be quoted in each case	1	31.5.16	Army romin A. 30, 64 official documents.
34.5.16 00 510R	a Homed	In the Jula	1.6.16	Dry Roll.
Mark .	Riched in astroi	4	1.7.16	CR 3.7.16
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	and the second second			faritry Saction prors 3 to Exherin
States -		Genel	at neuro	a to see a second



Private Ernest Boots left Southampton on 31st May 1916 and arrived in Le Havre on the 1st June. He was posted to the 2nd Battalion King's Royal Rifles and went into the front line on the 23rd June 1916. Just a week later he was killed having been in France for exactly a month.



### **Victoria : Gateway to the Western Front**

### REGALING THE WOUNDED.

CONCERT AND TEA AT ST. MICHAEL'S INFANTS' SCHOOL,

Wounded soldiers were the guests of St. Michael's Infants' School, Ebury-square, on Thursday afternoon last week, when the little ones gave a very bright and original concert, which was, afterwards followed by tea in the schoolroom. The weather for once put on a smiling countenance, and thus the soldiers were able to arrive in open taxicabs, being met at the school gates by a great volley of cheers from the girls' department and the mothers, who were anxious to catch a glimpse of the guests. The

Children from Ernest's old school, St Michael's , entertained the wounded who arrived at Victoria

Westminster and Pimlico News 1.7.16

### Arrivals

"the saddest part of all was the stern gravity of their expressions, as if the "veil" had been lifted and they had seen things they could never speak of and never forget."

### Departures

"I never saw such as sight as it was when the khaki arms were waving out of the windows to those dear ones who were left standing on the platform as long as the train was in sight."

Untold Tales of War-time London, Hallie Eustace Miles

FRENCH MONEY EXCHANGED HERE OFFICERS SOLDIERS IN UNIFORM

Victoria station, after the arrival of the leave train  $\degree$  IWM (Q 30511)

OFFICE



The high number of head wounds early in the war led to the Brodie Helmet being introduced as standard kit in 1915.

Just 12% of wounds recorded were to the torso. Many soldiers hit here never made it to a hospital, so their injuries were never recorded.

Leg wounds were the most commonly recorded area of injury; amputation was often necessary.

Arm injuries were often caused by high explosive artillery shells.

The mud on the Western Front led one British surgeon to remark, "every gunshot wound... is more or less infected at the moment of its infliction".

Standing in water for long periods in the trenches caused trench foot, where infection leads the flesh of the foot to decay and die.

share of injuries from artillery was even higher (76% according to French statistics, and 85% according to German records). The British army on the western front made an exact calculation, that 59% of all deaths had been caused by artillery. The



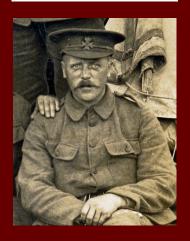
K.R.R. cap badge



King's Royal Rifles shoulder titles



Ernest was posted to the 2nd Battalion The King's Royal Rifles regiment They were part of 2nd Brigade, (South Eastern) 1st Division and wore the distinctive double diamond patch on the shoulder of their uniform.



Trench cap Steel Brodie helmet Gas mask Ammo pouch Entrenching Water tool (A) bottle and (B) Puttees Lee Enfield Rifle

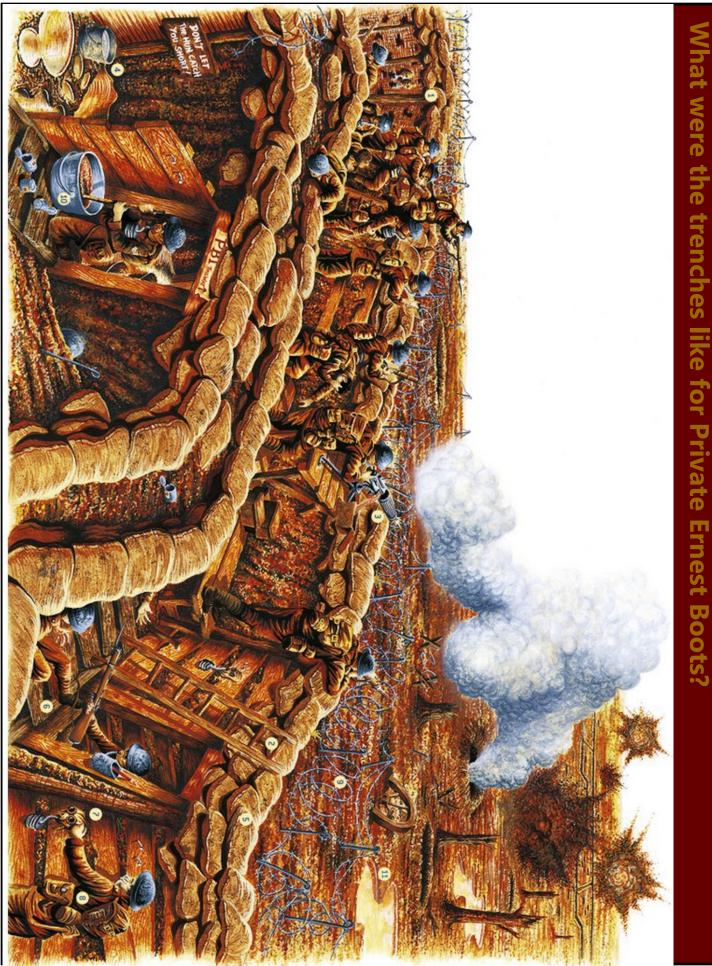
The entrenching tool broke into two bits with the metal head stowed in a canvas case, and the helve carried with the bayonet. The bayonet can be fixed to the rifle.



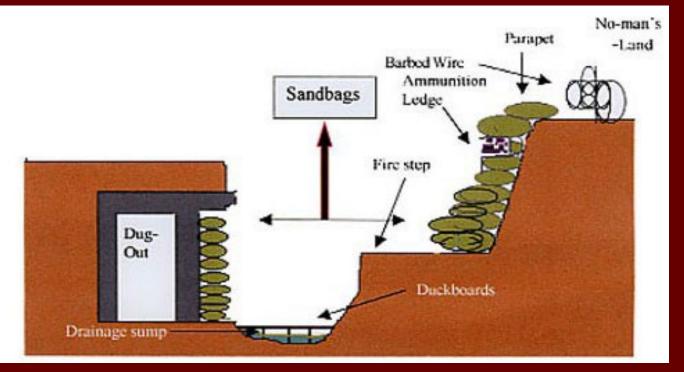


The Lee Enfield Rifle featured a ten-round box magazine which was loaded with .303 bullets manually from the top, either one round at a time or by means of five-round charger. The Lee– Enfield was the standard issue

# Vhat uniform did Ernest wear in France?



### Source 29a: Trench Warfare



1. Trenches generally formed a zigzag pattern to help protect the trench against enemy attack.

**2.** Fire steps and scaling ladders enabled troops to go 'over the top', i.e. to go out into no-man's-land (the area between the opposing armies) to attack enemy trenches.

3. Machine guns, one of the most deadly weapons, could fire 600 bullets/minute.

**4.** Trench toilets, called latrines, were usually pits 1.5 metres deep, dug at the end of a short gangway. Each company had two sanitary personnel who had to keep the latrines in good condition.

5. Earth-filled sandbags helped to shore up the edges of the trenches and absorb bullets and shell fragments.

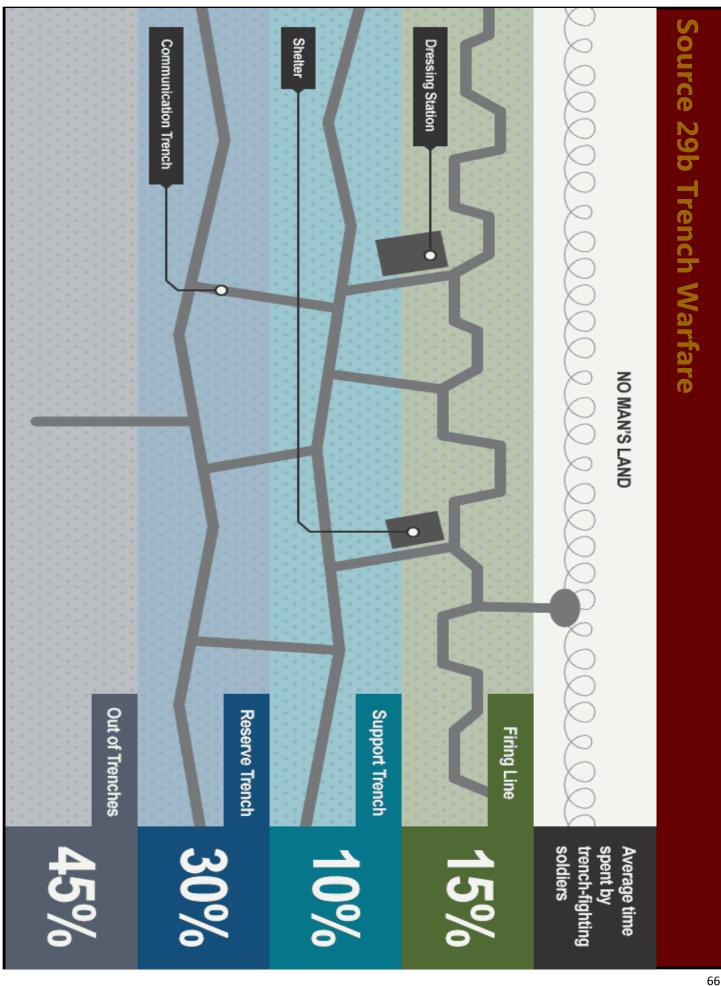
**6.** Duckboards were wooden planks placed across the bottom of trenches and other muddy ground. They helped protect men from trench foot and from sinking deep into the mud. Trench foot resulted from days standing in water logged trenches; gangrene could set in and result in the amputation of a man's foot.

**7.** Owing to the use of mustard gas and other chemical weapons, all soldiers needed gas masks. Mustard gas was al -most odourless and took 12 hours to take effect.

**8.** Each soldier had a kit containing nearly 30 kilograms of equipment. This included a rifle, two grenades, ammunition, a steel helmet, wire cutters, a field dressing, a spade, a heavy coat, two sandbags, a ground sheet, a water bottle, a haversack, a mess tin, a towel, a shaving kit, socks and rations of preserved food.

**9.** Barbed wire helped protect the trenches and also made it very difficult to attack the opposing trench. Before an attack, soldiers went out at night to cut sections of wire to make it easier for the soldiers in morning raids. Minor cuts and grazes caused by the barbed wire often became infected in the unsanitary conditions of the trenches.

**10.** The British army employed 300 000 field workers to cook and supply the food for troops. However, there was often not enough food to cook. The main diet in the trenches was bully beef (canned corned beef), bread and biscuits.



## Source 29c Trench Warfare





**Corporal Sharman (above) served in the King's Royal Rifles Corps at the Somme. In 1917 he was wounded and sent home. He survived the war married had children and died at the age 98 in 1996. His letter to his mother never lets on what life was like.** 

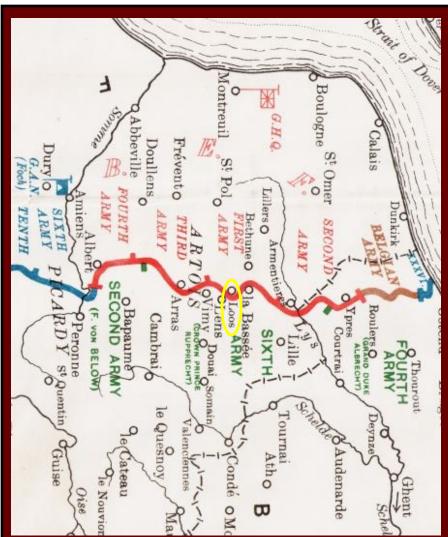
Deat Mother 24001, L A. U. Sharman October 26th 1916 labour K.R.R. - trance

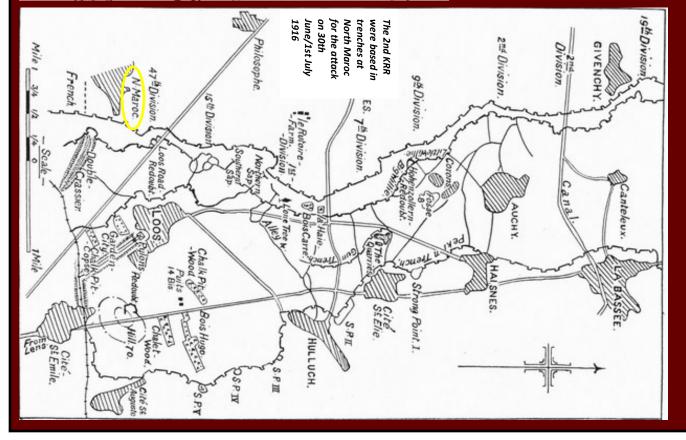
are not constrained hope that you are not contrained yourself about and that you are and it's not nice to out cack. Surprised to see how comfatable am overcoals and even a blanketand mud and other But I am quite well, and am pogging along in the Usual have no idea when I am, prouse about: you would be and well clotted whole here is all You say in your letter stile cheer up mother re 15 have nothing to on Carl plenty . we are well hungs Aam best.

## Source 30: Somme Diversion



The Somme offensive was begun by the British Fourth Army (red) and the French Sixth Army (blue), attacking the German Second Army (green). Ernest and the 2nd KRR were part of the 1st Army at Loos who would launch a diversionary attack to draw the Germans away from the main attack on the Somme. He was in trenches at North Maroc (map right in yellow).





Source 31: War Diary 2 King's Royal Rifles 23-24th May 1916 Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript. Place 24 Date Hour levir u cu Wh 24 Dun Unitun H & H ma luc Mr. Bist Wt. W393/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118. wed heardy rescon 160 (b) firsel 100 wounder at 25 18 her need to the lacing ht henry heen War Diary 3<sup>nd</sup> King's Royal Rifles lune 1016 Maron France is hora alway INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY Very alany Storten - in Indecessod & Islandhan (Erase heading not required.) WAR DIARY Summary of Events and Information pull onn me 01 To gree CAJON NE frell popul aller buy the on ma life at 11. 3M -rably af ur no an hadred and Army Form C. 2118 Remarks and references to Appendices F

			War Diary 2 <sup>11</sup> King's Koyai Rifles June 1916 Maroc, France	
Place	Date	Hour	Hour Summary of events and information	remarks
	23.6.16		Morning quiet, afternoon heavy mortar fire on front and support line. Lost Company B Rfn Beeton who got through Loos killed 1 CSM (Company Sergeant Maior) shock Draft of 47 arrived with 24 Rhodesians. Very heavy	
			storm and trenches flooded. We put up with it and worked on saps. Patrol went out to catch Bosch (Germans)-	
			but were seen. It was thought they might have been trying to pull down the notice boards. Enemy active during	
	24.6.16		night with trench mortars. We returned during night two artillery fired heavily about CALONNE on the left- at	
			11pm two mortars (60 <sup>th</sup> ) first 100 rounds at enemy during afternoon-no reply from enemy. 18 <sup>th</sup> Watch regiment	
			went out of the line during the afternoon. 'C' + 'D' Companies to the line in their place.	

### Why were Rhodesian soldiers in the K.R.R.?

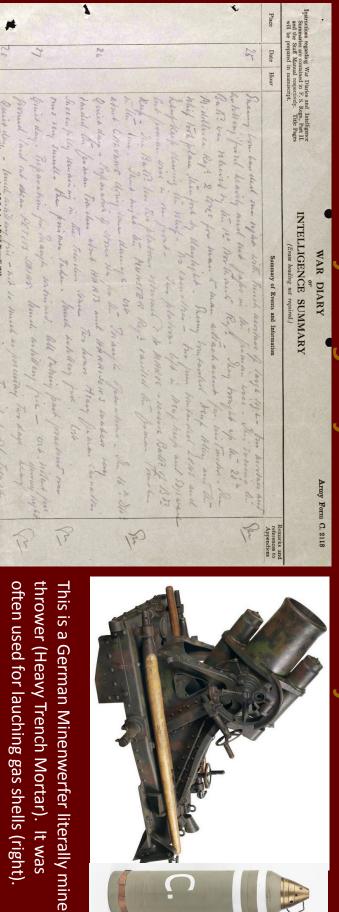




Southern Rhodesia is now known as Zimbabwe.

When war was declared in August 1914, Southern Rhodesian recruits made their own way to England and joined The King's Royal Rifle Corps Rhodesian Platoon. (pictured above at Sheerness, in November 1914. Fourth from the right in the second row is the Marquess of Winchester, who sponsored the unit). Southern Rhodesia contributed more manpower to the British war effort than any other colony, and more than Britain itself. White troops numbered 5,716, about 40% of those in the colony, with 1,720 being officers. The Rhodesia Native Regiment enlisted 2,507 black soldiers, about 30 black recruits scouted for the Rhodesia Regiment, and around 350 served in British and South African units. Over 800 Southern Rhodesians of all races lost their lives in WW1. The King's Royal Rifles recruited hundreds of men for its Rhodesian platoons. Troopers from Southern Rhodesia became renowned on the Western Front for their marksmanship, a result of their frontier lifestyle.

## Source 32: War Diary 2 King 's Royal Rifles 25-28th May 1916



1875

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080 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

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Trangh harde all

			War Diary 2 <sup>nd</sup> King's Royal Rifles June 1916 Maroc, France	
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	remarks
	25.6.16		<b>Enemy bombarded our right with trench mortars</b> of large size. Two mortars and artillery fired heavily and hit saps in our section in the formation list. This evening the battalion was relieved by the 1 <sup>st</sup> Northamptonshire Regiment. They brought the the port with the port of the table of	
			daylight. Enemy bombarded Asuf Alley and the Lewis kept firing. This relief no casualties. Two guns bombarded LENS and our section which is in the front. Two platoons left in support. The Battalion less tow companies returned to MAROC re-	
			serve company of 'B' company in this time. That night the Munster regiment revisited the German trenches about	
			Quiet day. Preparations of stores for the Triangle operations. The 16 <sup>th</sup> DLI raided the German trenches about HARTS	
	26.6.16		and HARRISONS trenches very successfully remaining in the trenches some two hours. Heavy German casualties, ours	
			Very small, one prisoner taken. Much artillery fire	
	27.6.16			
	28.6.16		Quiet day. Much artillery fire, not so much as previous two days. Heavy casualties towards the south. Battalion practised over triangle mock up trenches.	

# ource 33: War Diary 2 King's Royal Rifles 28-30th May 1916

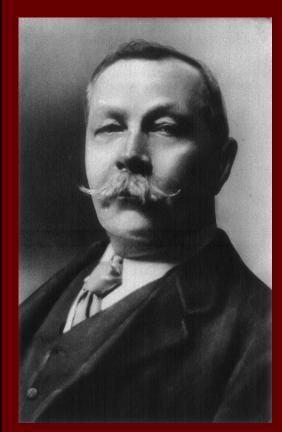
28.6.16 29.6.16 30.6.15	Place Date		Anteresting very Diaries and Intelligent Submaries are contained in ESS Reg. Fart will be properlied in management will be properlied in management will be a provided in the submaries of the su
	Hour		NAI INTELLIGE (Brow to gran theory press (1744) 2 Januar Janes (1744) 2 Januar Janes (1744) 2 Januar Janes Januar 2 Januar Januar Janes 2 Januar Januar Janes 2 Januar Januar Janes 2 Januar Januar (1947) 2 Januar (1947) 2 Januar (1947)
At 2 am very heavy guns straf (fire at) German wire near the HAYMARKET. Preparations for Triangle operations now complete in stores etc. Some rain. Our guns fire on northern front point near HAYMARKET. Final arrangements made for attack. Companies draw lots Quiet morning and afternoon. The Battalion less parties selected for the attack moved with 'B' Company to billets at 7.30pm. The remainder marched off to the Middle Alley and CARTFAX to the starting places allotted to them and by 8.30pm we were all ready. <b>The Zero hour was fixed at 9.10pm. at 9pm the bridges were put up. The</b>	Summary of events and information	War Diary 2 <sup>nd</sup> King's Royal Rifles June 1916 Maroc, France	MAR       M
	remarks		ished

	7.24		war blar y z i ning s noyai nines Julie 1910 Maroc, Flance	
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of events and information	remarks
	28.6.16		At 2 am very heavy guns straf (fire at) German wire near the HAYMARKET. Preparations for Triangle operations now complete in stores etc. Some rain.	
	29.6.16		Our guns fire on northern front point near HAYMARKET. Final arrangements made for attack. Companies draw lots	
	30.6.15		Quiet morning and afternoon. The Battalion less parties selected for the attack moved with 'B' Company to billets	
			and by 8.30pm we were all ready. The Zero hour was fixed at 9.10pm. at 9pm the bridges were put up. The	
			enemy either saw them or the troops assembling in the trenches. At 9.03pm they opened a heavy fire with	
			trench mortars and artillery on our trenches causing many casualties as the trenches were crowded. Our artil- lery opened as arranged at 9.10pm. At 9.15pm three mines were sprung and at 9.16pm the storming column	
			went over the parapet. The two parties on the right failed to penetrate the heavy wire in front of the British trenches and unsurprisingly what remained of them returned south to the trenches on the northern side of the	
			Double Crassier in an attempt to help the Royal Sussex Regiment, who had a company engaged.	

hill. That seems being. hill. That seems being. Anone supported. 2 keepen.	Place Date Hour High High Hand Hour Place Date Hour Hand the Staff Manual respectively. The Pages Will be prepared in manuscript. Place Date Hour Hand Hand Hour Hand Hand Hour Hand Hand Hand Hand Hand Hand Hand Hand	
	A. Juli	hat t lung hi forme shi n hi h Chanis digeter shi di shi d
	Place Date	Hour Summary of events and information remarks
Date Hour Summary of events and information	July 1st	Their efforts to carry the German sap on the Northern Crassier together with the Royal Sussex did not succeed as a conse- quence of wire and machine gun fire. The outer column attacked and entered the enemy's trench, but found its right in the air and much exposed to hostile bombing attacks. Nor did it succeed in joining with the left column. Under these circum- stances major WD Barton the senior officer on the spot ordered a withdrawl. This was carried out in good order. The left column entered the trench appointed for them and remained in action there until 3am-when they also withdrew. The losses were heavy, 11 officers, 3 killed, 2 died of wounds, 6 wounded 28 OR (Other Ranks) killed, 8 died of wounds, 24 missing, 167 wounded. The battalion accounted for some 100 enemy it is thought. After the operation the whole battalion returned to its former billets in North MAROC and then marched to PETIT SAINS next day for a rest in billets that same evening.

# **Source 35: Killed in Action**

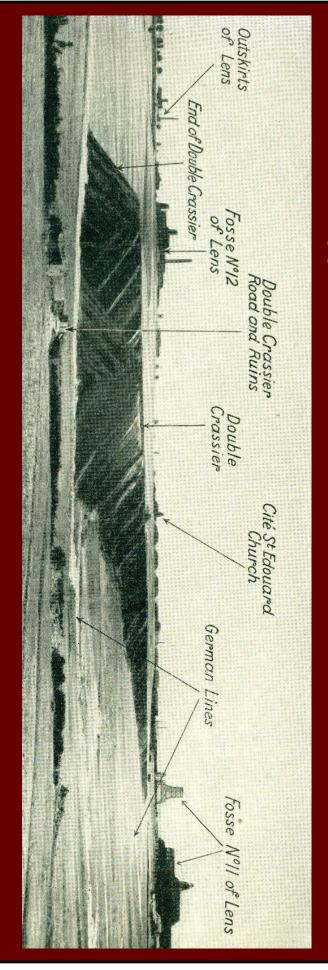
Wt. W1751-1408.-500,000.-5-15.-C. & G. Forms B. 105/1 Casualty Form-Active Service. ate a mode wind mode a Regiment or Corps Mings Rin 00000 Name. Rank Regimental No. montion of was Service reckons from (a) Terms of Service (a). 15 Enlisted (a) Numerical position on Date of appointment) Date of promotion to) roll of N.C.Os. to lance rank present rank Qualification (b) Re-engaged Extended Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 218, Army Form A. 26, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case. Remarks Report taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 36, or other official documents. Place Date From whom Date received amphile 31. 3.11. Trance 31.5.16 2 5RAA 1.6.16 1.6.16 13.6.16 1.7.16 man MAJOR fantry Saction #83-0 Exterior alleadya Gene



Sherlock Holmes author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose son Kingsley Doyle fought, and was wounded at the Somme in 1916, saw this attack as a means of distracting the Germans from the main offensive at the Somme, paid tribute to the men of the 2nd King's Royal Rifles:

"There can be no greater trial for troops, and no greater sacrifice can be demanded of a soldier, than to risk and probably lose his life in an attempt which can obviously have no permanent result, and is merely intended to ease pressure elsewhere. The gallant stormers reached and in several places carried the enemy's line, but no lasting occupation could be effected, and they had eventually to return to their own line. The Riflemen, who were the chief sufferers, lost 11 officers and 200 men."

# What happened to Private Ernest Boots?



at 9.15pm which would have been the moment he would have gone over the top. Two of the storming parties on the attack drew to a halt. Ernest may have been killed when the German guns fired on the crowded assembly trenches attacked 'The Triangle', a German strongpoint in their line near Maroc, just north of Loos. This attack had the only pur-On the night of 30th June/1st July 1916, 2nd King's Royal Rifle Corps of 2 Brigade, 1st Division and part of 2nd Sussex 2nd King's Royal Rifle Corps suffering over 200 casualties one of whom was Pte Ernest Boots when those who were still standing were ordered to retire to their own trenches. All in all it was a dismal failure with make contact with the party on the left. This attack on the left reached their objective and held on there until 2am man trenches but with no support on their right they were exposed to bombing attacks and as a consequence failed to right of the attack failed to get through the wire and were cut down in front of it. Those in the centre got into the Gercausing many casualties. If he survived this he would have witnessed three mines being blown under the German lines jump off trenches at 7.30pm that evening. All we know is that he died sometime between then and 3am when the vious efforts. Not enough artillery preparation and uncut German wire. Ernest and 2 KRR began assembling in their pose of diverting the Germans away from the main attack on the Somme. The attack had all the failings of so many pre-

deceased lin Source 36: Next of K ddresses of all the Relatives of the abovesch of the degrees specified below that are now living. degrees of relationship in which there is no relative now living the word "none" is to be inserted, not filled in, much correspondence and delay may be occasioned by the neglect. NAME IN FULL of every relative now living in each degree enquired for (see note abore). ADDRESS IN FULL gree of relationship. of each surviving relative opposite his her name. Widow of the Soldier ... ines .. 1906 2 Children of the Soldier and dates of their births... llaan 210 Father of the Soldier .... .... ther of the Soldier. ••• n Age Full Blood ... Brothers of the Soldier Half blood .... 11.8 Full blood ... Sisters of the Soldier Half blood .... If no Relatives in the degrees above are now living the following particulars should be given : Names of those now living Ad iresses full Grandparents of the Soldier .... Ave Nephews and Nieces of the Soldier Uncles and Aunts by blood of the Soldier (not Uncles and Aunts by marriage) ... DECLARATION. I hereby declare that the above is a true and complete Statement of all the Relatives of the late Soldier new living in the degrees enquired for. Signature of the Declarant. Relationship to the Soldier\_ Address in full\_ I hereby certify that the above Statement and Declaration made by an and signed in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief. day of. Dated at. this Qualification. Signature of Minister Vicano Ad lress. or Brice Magistrate. 5527. Wt. W1913 221314. 1,000,0 0(S. 2/19. 8.0.,F.I

# **Ernest Boots' family**

- 1. **Ernest Richard Boots** was born 19 February 1883 in Pimlico, and died 1 July 1916 in Grenay, Pas-de-Calais, France.
- 2. He married 2 **Sarah Ann Day 24 September 1905** in Westminster. She was born 1881 in Faringdon, Berks, and died Dec 1959 in Ealing.

# **Children of Ernest and Sarah BOOTS:**

**1 Ernest William John Boots** b.: 2 February 1906 Pimlico, d.: 7 August 1964 Lambeth,

2 WIlliam Robert Boots b.: 10 November 1907 Pimlico, m.: Louisa Ethel Tindall, 2November 1936, Ospringe, Kent February 1989 Ashford, Kent,

3 SArah Jane E Boots

b.: December 1909 Pimlico,

d.: December 1910 Chelsea,

**4 Rose Emmeline Boots** b.: 16 May 1911 Wandsworth, d.: December 1951 Eton, BuckS

**5 Daisy Violet Boots** b.: 11 September 1912 Wandsworth, m.: Arthur E Taylor, September

> 1937, Eton, BuckS d.: March 1996 Ashford, Kent,

6 Ivy Maud Boots

b.: 2 December 1916 Wandsworth,

m.: Raymond E Rose, March 1941,

d.:

# Source 37: Westminster Council Minutes 27 July 1916

27th July, 1916.

274

# Mr. F. H. Peters and Mr. E. B. Smith, Temporary Clerks-Appointment.

temporary clerks at a salary of £2 5s. per week :- Mr. Francis Henry Peters, of 6, Norfolk from 5th June, Smith, of 3, Glenview, Victoria Road, New Barnet, age 48, in the place of Mr. W. J. Williams, House, S.W., age 52, in the place of Mr. F. A. Lyddiard, from May 8th; Mr. Edgar Baillie 9. We have received a report by the City Comptroller that he has engaged the following Roopted.

# E. R. Boots, Dustman-Death on Active Service.

in action on the 1st July. He contributed £7 1s. 8d. to the Pension Fund. 10. We regret to report that Dustman E. R. Boots, 2nd King's Royal Rifles, was killed

signed by the Mayor and the Town Clerk is being sent to the relatives of the deceased employee, expressing the condolence of the Council with them in their bereavement. In accordance with the Resolution of the Council of the 22nd December, 1914, a letter

WE RECOMMEND-That the contributions made by Boots to the Pension Fund be

returned to his legal personal representative.

on to the second

this would have been worth £433.10. Was this enough money for his wife Sarah Boots to support his family? Ernest Boot's contribution towards his pension from Westminster Council came to £7 1 shilling and 8 pence. In 2015

Source 38: Register of Soldier's Effects

		32831	Record No.		
		28316 201999	Registry No.		
At 4 50 70 und 16 14	Richard At action R. 11696	eel :	Soldier's Name		
	Regiment, Rank, No.				
2 <sup>nd</sup> Br. 1. 7. 16 Unicker 12 12 12 Ch. Gh. g/16 12 11696 12 11696 14 WAR GRATUIT Transfer 3.3.2/1 9. 16 1.2. 16 1.2. 17 1.2. 16 1.2. 17 1.2. 17 1.2. 18 1.2. 19 1.2.			Date and Place of Death		
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		montor.	Account and Date	CHARGES	
	11.11	16-1-19	of Authority	- Data	
	15-11.19 lord backs	monthy. 16-1-17 wid Sarah	To whom Authorised		
	4 10	<b>N</b>	Amount Authorised £ 5.		
	Nº IN	١	sed d.		
	D	: b:57	in which advertised	W- 187-1	

# National Army Museum Registers of Soldiers' Final Effects

at this time. War Pensions were received as separate to this amount. final balance of pay plus a gratuity paid by the War Office - responsible for the administration of the British Army This document shows the compensation paid to Sarah immediately following Ernest's death. It consists of his

over £929 in today's money. Whilst the government was committed to providing financial support to the families Museum was £10.35. When taking inflation into account, the average payment of £10.35 is equivalent to just Ernest's wife Sarah received just £2 (£2 0s 0d) which is £185.53 in today's money. She also received a gratuity of £4 10 shillings (maximum for private soldier was £5). The average amount according to the National Army



# Source 39: Birth of a Daughter

### **CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF BIRTH** GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE Application Number W1046678 REGISTRATION DISTRICT Wandsworth **1916** RTH in the Sub-district of. Surrey Battersea in the 2 8 9 10 6 Sex When When and Name, if any Name and surname Name, surname and Occupation Signature, description and Signature of Name entered after registration where born of father of father registrar of mother Second Girl Westminster Lester 17 Ernest Sarah Ann Sarah Boots lvv January Council Delanev Richard 4th 1917 December Boots Mother Maud Road 1916 Registrar Boots formerly sweeper 165 Stewart Dav 165 (deceased) Road Stewart Rd Battersea Battersea day of .... February 2016 Eleventh Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the **BXBZ** 505116 Ivy Boots was conceived whilst Ernest was on leave before going to France and by the time she was born he had been dead for 5 months DECLARATION. I hereby declare that the above is a true and complete Statement of all the Relatives of the late Soldier new living in the degrees enquired for. Signature of the Declarant. Relationship to the Soldier\_ Address in full. I hereby certify that the above Statement and Declaration made by 411 and signed in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief. Dated at day of. this Qualification. Signature of Minister Ad lress or Magistrate. 5527. Wt. WSS13 121314. 1,000,0 0(S. 2/19. S.O.,F.Bd

After Ivy was born Sarah could not survive on her widow's pension. She had been born in Faringdon Berks so moved to Bicester to be near to her family.

## What Support Did Sarah Receive As a Widow?

Ernest's widow Sarah was pregnant and had to also support her other four children. She was granted a pension of only £2a week. She also had a gratuity of £4 10s from the army and £7 1s 8d from the council (£729.70 in 2015)



I join with my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War.

mack.J.



Sarah had to find work to support her children so had no option but to move back to Berkshire where her family came from. She was not rich enough to travel to visit Ernest's grave at Maroc. All she had to remember him were his medals and a 'Dead Man's Penny memorial plaque issued to the next of kin of soldiers killed in action.

AVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM. This Report Cancels All Previous Rep No.1 District. REPORT No. SCHEDULE No. 140. PLACE OF BURIAL MAROC BRITISH CEMETERY. Commune ;- GRENAY. Map Reference Sh. 44a. M. 2. c. 85.65. The following are buried here :--Date Cross Erected Rank Plot, Row No. Name Regiment and Initials of Death or G. R. U'd. and Grave PLOT 1 ROW K. 9. 20-10-16 Pte.A. 26334 Davies 17/Welsh Lt. Col. C. J. 18-10-16 10. Wilkie -docronis 11. Capt. C.V. Lyne --do-Lloyd-Williams 2/It.K.P. 17-10-16 12. -dolected 13. 11/K.O.R. Lancs. 21335 Glendinning Pte.J. 16-9-16 14. 7-9-16 Pte.J. Bills -29588 14/H.L.I. 15. 16-8-16 11/K.O.R.Lancs. 22456 Gullen -L/C.L. 16. 15-8-16 Richardson-Pte.F. 21/Middlesex 15183 17. 14-8-16 Pte. J.W. Fountain -21053 -do-18. 13-10-16 25376 Mills / Pte.J. 17/Welsh 19. 23-1-17 14/Can.Battn. 841833 Pte.J.R. Laurie -11-8-16 20. 11/K.O.R.Lancs. 19735 Downend Pte.T. 7-8-16 21. L/C.S. Harrop 22554 -do-9-8-16 YP/19/2/14053 22. Chapmen Pte. L. H. 22594 -do-23. Pte.C. 22300 Gorry -do-24. 11-8-16 Brooker -Pte.J.A. 21141 -do-25. 6-8-16 Pte.C. Sefton -22748 -do-26. 5-8-16 Cpl.W. Crank -19859 -do-L/C.W. 2457 Rawlings Rfn.T. Platt -12443 )30-6-16 One Grave 27. Cure -Rfn.A. 266 2/Kings R.R.C( Rfn.R. Coote -9471 Rfn.W. Ellis / 10675 28. 6-9-16 14/A & S Hldrs. 12575 pte.R. Waddell 2/Kings R.R.C.)R/11696 Boots -30-6-16 29. Rfn. E. Rin. E. 12738 Cooper. 11883 Wilkins Rfn.L. 2/Kings R.R.C(R/17888 Baker -30. One Grave Rfn. A. Rfn. 10334 Morris -31. 7-9-16 Sgt.T. Richards 12298 14/H.L.I. 32. Grit . J. 42815 Squires 2-7-16 RU/25211 DQ26 -R.G.A W1163—P133 45,000 10/17 HWV(P117) 144—P908 70,000 4/18 Forms/W3372/2 215 4/18

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. 20-11-20. Army Form W. 3372.

ource 40: Graves registration report

# **Private Ernest Boot's Grave at Maroc**

The War Graves Photographic Project



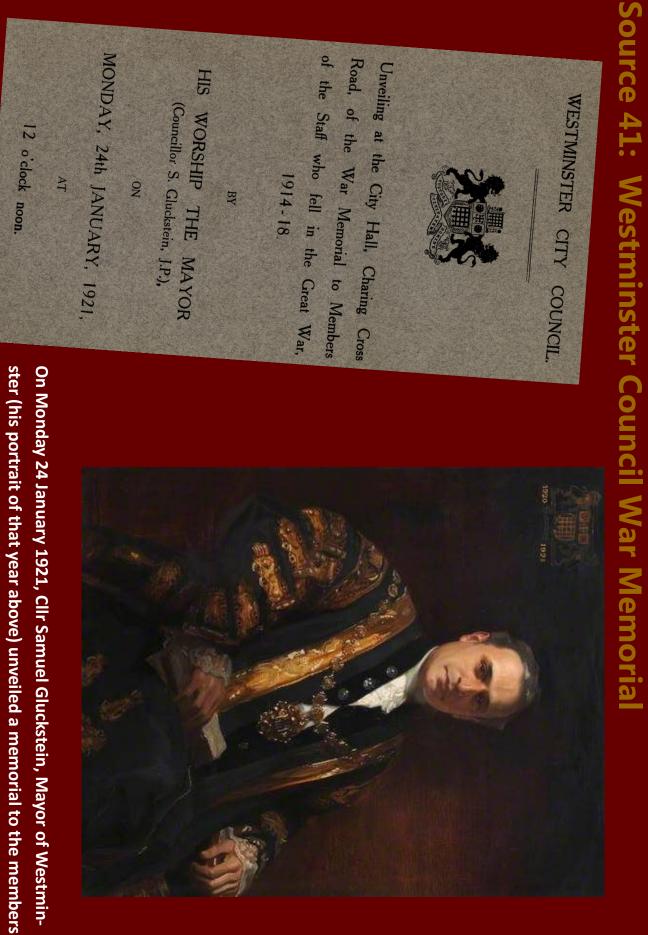
In 1921 Private Ernest Boots was buried in the cemetery at Maroc (above) close to where he was killed on 30th June/1st July 1916. he has no epitaph.

## **EPITAPHS OF THE WAR**

"Equality of Sacrifice"

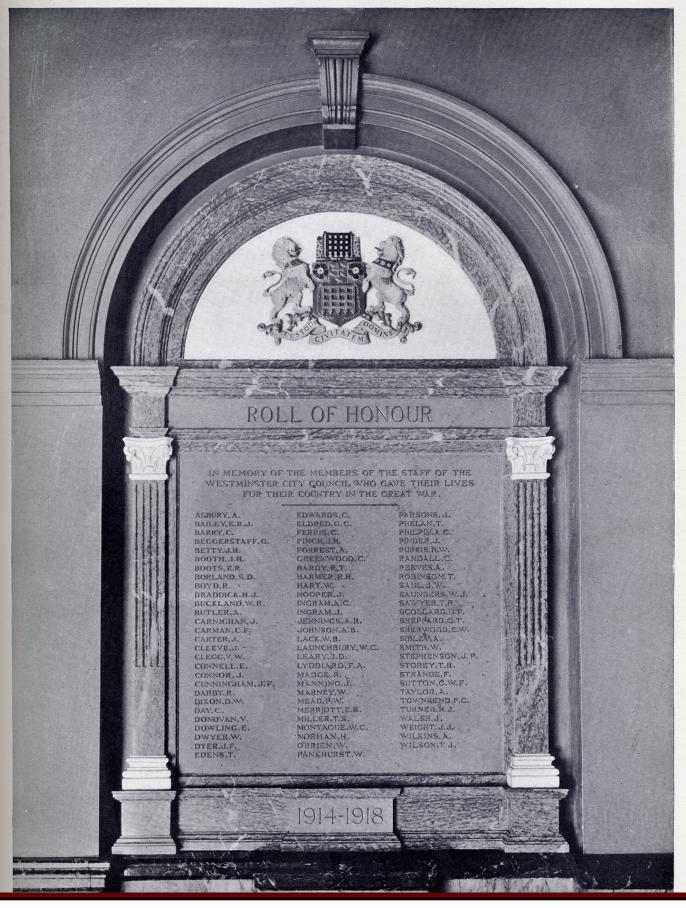
A. "I was a Have." B. "I was a 'have-not.'"

(Together). "What hast thou given which I gave not?" RUDYARD KIPLING



of the council staff killed in the Great War at City Hall, Charing Cross Road.

# Westminster Council Staff War memorial



# WAR MEMORIAL DESTROYED





This is the old Westminster Town Hall. You can still the city crest above the main door. The building was sold to Nat West Bank, who managed to lose the Westminster Staff War Memorial. It was probably destroyed when the bank, now closed down, when it was refurbished 20 years ago. As time moves on memorials can be neglected, forgotten and sometimes destroyed. What do you feel about that?



Just like this statue, Private Ernest Boots is now just a shadow. There were no obituaries for him so we could not find a photograph just a single line in the South London Press two month after he died.

# "Have you forgotten yet?

Look down, and swear by the slain of the War that you'll never forget."

# **Siegfried Sassoon**

BATTERSEA. KILLED.-Bdr. A. H. Jackson, RFA; F. Arleby T. A. Barnes, RB; Sergt. H. Lecg. Maa Pescefull, LondR; W. S. Hall, M.HU; H. Bailey, RBerksR; E. R. Boots, KRRC; E. A. Bailey, RBerksR; E. R. Boots, KRRC; E. A. Wellins, RWKentR; W. Stenbry, WestRidingR; South London Press 17.9.16 Wandsworth Local Studies

