

Assessment of Scope for future Projects

This document is designed to outline the possibilities, scope and potential limitations that I have come across during my project. This is for the benefit of future volunteers who may wish to make a contribution to the Devon and Exeter Institution's First World War related resources.

Possibilities

The Devonshire Regiment – My own work has scratched the surface of the wealth of information available in the DEI concerning the Devonshire Regiment. My work has only outlined the broad postings and activities of its constituent battalions. There is great scope for future work to be done on the individual experiences of the Regiment's soldiers. There were also several battalions that I did not have time to cover in my outlines.

The Royal Navy – I briefly touched upon the Royal Navy, however the dearth of information contained in my work upon the subject is due to a lack of sources concerning that subject in that period. There is a considerable amount of information concerning Devon's maritime history in the DEI particularly pre 20th Century, and would be an interesting project in itself. However, for people searching for information on the Royal Navy of First World War Devon, they may need to search wider than the Institution's library. Plymouth, Devonport and Dartmouth may be more appropriate places to search for information.

Local Prominent People – The Newspapers in particular will provide any interested project partner with a great wealth of information on prominent and influential locals in regards to the war. There are a number of candidates for interesting autobiographical focus.

Home War Efforts – The newspapers I read through threw up plenty of examples of events designed to raise money and morale, and to do something for the troops. There is a great deal of information on the contributions of ordinary people to the winning of the war and providing support for those on the frontlines.

Crime – Something I did not touch upon in my work was crime, however, whilst I was browsing through the sources, there was an interesting alteration in the kinds of crimes being committed during the First World War, and so it makes an interesting subject for analysis. The newspapers regularly displayed examples of various war and military related crimes.

Newspapers – As well as being a key source for many of the issues raised above, the newspapers could constitute an interesting project in of themselves. The papers of the time in Devon were somewhat of an anomaly in the country for their content and their prioritization of war related stories and objectives.

Relevant Academic and Secondary Sources

Bonnie White – Bonnie White has done some work on Devon during the First World War, specifically on the minutiae of agriculture. Her articles can be accessed via the University of Exeter's library online resources, or via Google Scholar.

Richard Batten – Richard Batten completed his PhD at the University of Exeter in 2013 precisely on the subject of local elites in Devon during the First World War. His PhD thesis is available via the University of Exeter's library online resources and Google Scholar.

Derek Tait – Derek Tait's book 'Exeter in the Great War' is a good starting point for all things concerning Exeter during the First World War, and provides an interesting chronological catalogue of events. It is available in the DEI library.

C.T. Atkinson – C.T. Atkinson's highly detailed book on the Devonshire Regiment during the First World War is the best starting point for anyone interested in the Devonshire Regiment. It is available in the DEI library.