

# HERTS PAST POLICING

Recording life on the beat in Hertfordshire



DIGITAL LEARNING RESOURCE

## Friend or Foe?

### Suggested Questions

#### Who were people suspicious and afraid of during the war?

The idea of the enemy was something which had to be constructed in the public imagination to encourage patriotic feeling and contribution to the war effort. The enemy needed to seem different: sinister, dangerous and immoral. Fear gave rise to suspicion and paranoia at home of foreigners, hatred of the enemy abroad, along with a sense that the war was justified.

The documents in this collection can be used to look at:

#### Belgian Refugees

- In Autumn 1914, thousands of Belgian refugees arrived in the UK

#### In the Case of invasion

- Each county made plans to deal with emergencies, such as invasion

#### Alien registration and restrictions

- At the outbreak of war, all non-UK nationals (aliens) were subject to severe restrictions

#### Rise of anti german feeling

- Once the war began it wasn't long before fear and suspicion of Germans was widespread

#### Prisoners of war in Hertfordshire

- A prisoner of war camp could cause problems for police and locals

#### Suspected German Spies

- Fears of spies was rife, especially at the start of the war

#### Divided loyalties

- Edith Joscelyne was working in Germany as the war broke out.

## FRIEND OR FOE? QUESTIONS

Fear, Suspicion and Shifting Loyalties

### **Belgian Refugees**

What were the attitudes towards refugees and their situation at the start of the war and what was done to help them?

What were considered to be the problems relating to welcoming refugees?

What evidence is there that attitudes changed towards the refugees and can you think of any similar parallels in more recent times?

### **Alien Registration and Restrictions**

Who was classed as an “alien” under the Alien Restriction Order?

What restrictions were placed on Aliens?

### **Rise of anti-German feeling**

What evidence is there that people were suspicious of the Germans?

What methods were used to dispel rumours about names and associations to Germany?

### **Prisoners of War in Hertfordshire**

What was the role of the police with regard to Prisoners of War?

How do you think local people felt about having Prisoners of War nearby?

What reasons were there behind the varying attitudes to Prisoners of War?

### **Divided loyalties: Edith Joscelyne**

Where was Edith when war was declared?

How did the outbreak of war affect her attitude to the family she worked for?

She returned to England and took up work in a munitions factory in Hertfordshire. How do you think she came to this decision?