

## World War One - a brief guide

- **1914 June 28** - Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Habsburg Austro-Hungarian Empire, was assassinated.
- **1914 July 28 to August 4** - the Austro-Hungarians fired the first shots of the war and prepared to invade Serbia, Germany declared war on Russia and France before invading Belgium. The UK declared war on Germany. Japan joined the Allies, the Ottomans joined the Central Powers. War spread to the seas.
- **1915** - Stalemate on the Western Front. The passenger liner RMS Lusitania was sunk by a German U-boat with 1,200 lives lost. London was attacked from the air by German Zeppelins.
- **1916** - Conscription was introduced in the UK for men aged between 18 and 41. A million casualties in 10 months: Germany aimed to "bleed France white".
- **1917** - German Army retreated to the Hindenburg Line. USA joined the war. Tank, submarine and gas warfare intensified. Royal family change surname to Windsor [from Saxe-Cobourg and Gotha] due to anti-German sentiment.
- **1918** - Germany launched a major offensive on the Western Front, the Allies launch successful counter-offensives at the Marne and Amiens. The Armistice was signed on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## Marlow in WW1

- The first Marlow man to die in battle (Flanders) was William Eaton. He was killed in action on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 1914 and was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards. He worked in the town as a policeman in the years before the war.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Bucks Battalion, Oxs & Bucks Light Infantry fought in France, particularly Flanders in 1915-17 and in Italy 1917-18 including playing a major role in Pozières in the Somme between 21 and 24 July 1916 and then St Julien, Ypres on 16 August 1917.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bucks Battalion, Oxs and Bucks Light Infantry fought in France and particularly Flanders, 1915-18 and were heavily involved in the battles at Fromelles in the Somme on 19 July 1916 and at Wiltje (part of the Ypres campaign) on 22 August 1917.
- The last Marlow man to die in battle during WW1 was Albert Todd, a rifleman from 12<sup>th</sup> (County of London) Battalion London Regiment (The Rangers), he died on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1918.



## Get Involved

Few Marlow families were untouched by the 1914 – 1918 War. Whether fighting in the trenches or being mobilised to help the war effort in other ways, society in Britain experienced profound changes. The lives of those who survived changed greatly after the war. This national commemoration is your opportunity to remember those who fought and died and to record the changes which war brought to families and the community. Individuals, organisations and schools can all be involved in the four year programme. It needs to be a community exercise and we'll help you with information and ideas.

## Contact Us

Contact us with your ideas for commemorative events, your queries on how to research ancestors (the local libraries have excellent family history facilities) and to share memorabilia.

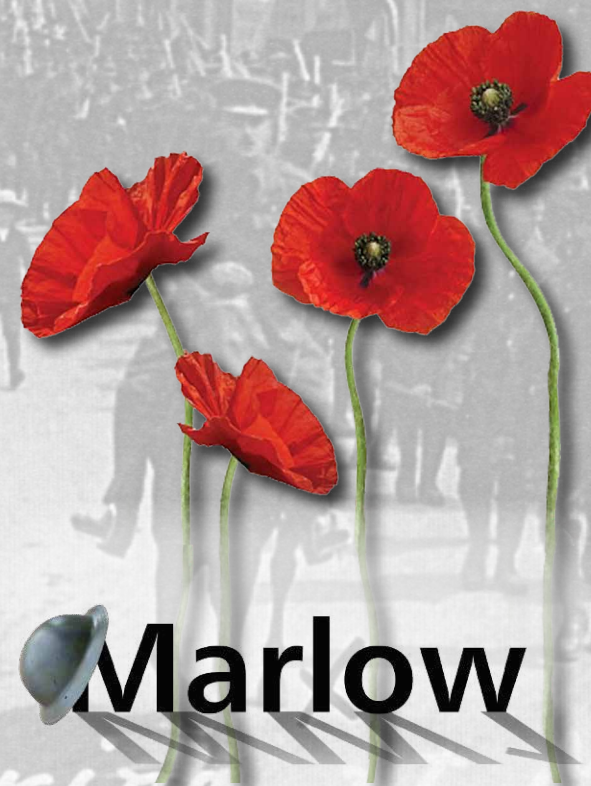
[more@marlowww1.org.uk](mailto:more@marlowww1.org.uk)  
[www.marlowww1.org.uk](http://www.marlowww1.org.uk)



# Marlow

**How did World War One  
change the lives of  
the people of Marlow?**

**Four years of events to  
help you find out -  
a hundred years on**



**Marlow**



## Marlow Remembers WW1

"Marlow Remembers WW1" has come together to oversee local involvement in the national WW1 commemorations over the next four years. As well as staging some events ourselves, we aim to be a focus for local bodies and help co-ordinate their activities. We plan to be a source of information and ideas and to encourage school projects. Further details are on our website which will be regularly updated.



*Grenadier Guards in Marlow  
21st July 1915*



*Above: Troops arriving  
at Marlow July 3rd 1915*

*Right: The invitation to  
Marlow's ball which  
celebrated the end of WW1*



*Second Lieutenant Basil  
Arthur Horsfall, who  
attended Sir William  
Borlase's school, won a VC  
for leading a counter attack  
despite a serious head  
wound and then refusing to  
leave the field as all of the  
other officers in his company  
had been killed*



## National Commemoration

The government is working alongside partners, including the Heritage Lottery Fund, Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Imperial War Museums, on a range of national remembrance events, cultural programmes and educational schemes to mark 100 years since the start of the First World War. There will be a series of national commemorations and events between 2014 to 2018.

## Local Commemoration

There will also be locally based civic commemorations and a range of activities by involved parties, such as Marlow Museum. A series of Public Talks is being planned and a range of other activities will emerge as local communities decide how they wish to mark this event. The website being created for Marlow Remembers WW1 will carry the names of local individuals and record their sacrifice. We hope that the local press and radio will also play their part in this extended commemoration.

*A trench at the Battle of Fromelles  
where many Marlow men from the  
2nd Bucks Battalion died in action*



*Ypres, where men from Marlow fought in 1917 in the  
1st Bucks Battalion*

## Life in Marlow in WW1

Life at home during WW1 saw many changes, class barriers faded, many women started working, particularly in munitions, coal, gas, power, transport and agriculture. There were some fifty Zeppelin bombing raids across the UK (none in Marlow) and food shortages that led to rationing by 1918. But, as always, life went on, schools and shops remained open and the Music Hall continued as the UK's favourite form of entertainment.

## Schools

There is a strong emphasis on youth in the government's commemoration programme. This is the opportunity to "pass the torch" to a younger generation so they may learn of the sacrifice and experiences of their forbears. Secondary schools will be nationally funded to send selected pupils to view the battlefields and cemeteries. Project work is being planned in several local schools to deepen pupils' understanding of World War One.



*School life went on in Marlow*

## Individuals

Did you have a relative who fought in the war or assisted the war effort? We can help you to research their stories. Do you hold memorabilia such as medals, photos and correspondence?

While our brief is particularly to commemorate those of Marlow and district who took part in this war, we will encourage research into anyone's family members, no matter where they lived, to add to the sum of our knowledge of the war.