



St Barnabas Church, Kensington

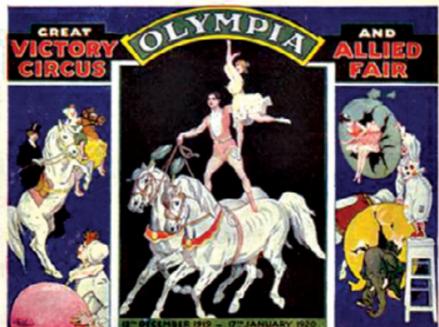
Victoria Cross winner Frank Wearne was christened here on 7th May 1894. On 28th June 1917 while under heavy counter-attack, he ran along the top of the trench firing and throwing bombs in order to spur on his men and prevent a vital position being lost. The enemy was driven back and even though he was severely wounded, he refused to leave his men. He was hit a second time and just before the order to withdraw was given he was caught by a third shell and killed.



KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA'S GREAT WAR

Kensington Olympia

At the start of the war enemy aliens were interned in Kensington Olympia. Later on it was taken over by the War Office and became an Army Clothing Supply Depot. Finally it hosted a Victory Circus, put on by Bertram Mills, to mark the end of the war.



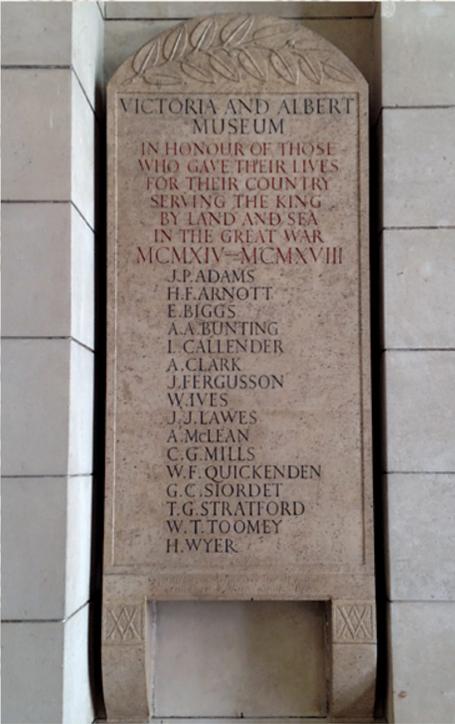
GERMANS AT OLYMPIA.
Olympia, the spacious building at West Kensington, is a concentration camp. Several hundred Germans are confined there in the custody of British soldiers. With the utmost secrecy, and in the most thorough manner, the Metropolitan Police have thought desirable to put under close observation On Saturday night 113 were taken to Olympia, where they found a garrisoned Grenadiere and Irish Guards. During the week the number of detainees has been considerably increased, and the police are still prosecuting their search. The number of men who were discovered and induced to accompany the police to Kensington was admirable. It is stated that the number includes two counts and a party of sailors and soldiers, who had arranged for a boat in which to endeavour to reach the Fatherland. Some were taken from hotels, and most of them brought blankets. All were, of course, thoroughly searched for firearms and documents, but nothing is permitted to transpire as to what was discovered. In every case it is deemed there is no reason for detention.



Earls Court

This former exhibition centre and scene of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show was rapidly turned into a centre for receiving Belgian citizens, who had been displaced when their country was invaded by Germany. As many as 250,000 Belgians sheltered in London during World War One. This picture by Chelsea resident and official war artist, Henry Rushbury, shows the contrast between the huddled domesticity of the refugees and the grand facades of Earls Court in the background.





Victoria and Albert Museum

The V&A stayed open during WW1, although half of it was requisitioned by the Board of Education after they had been turned out of their offices in Whitehall by the Admiralty.

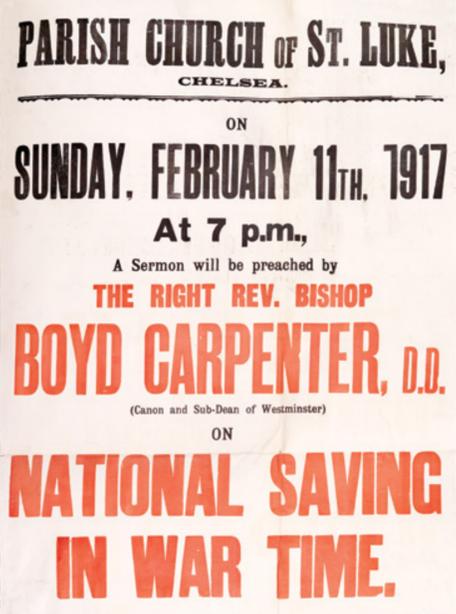
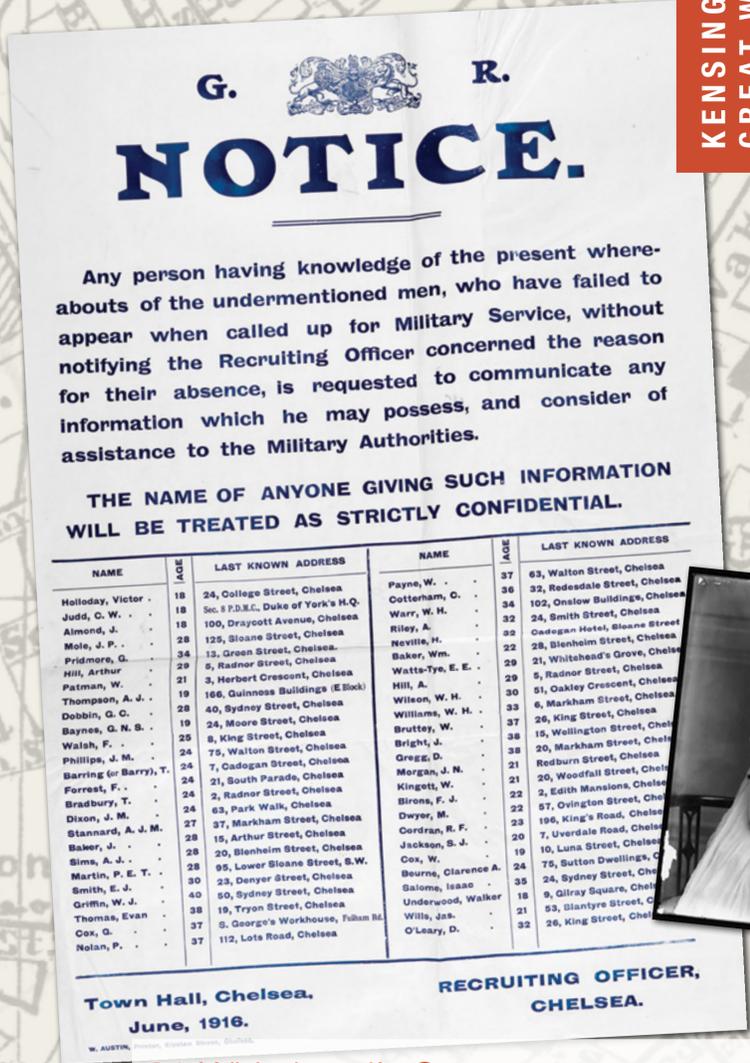
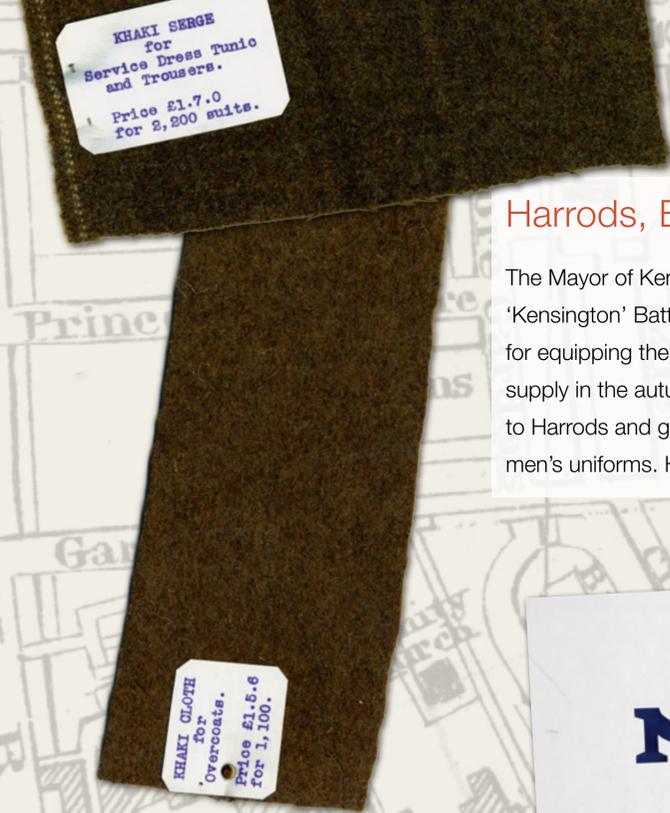
When war broke out, eighteen of Rodin's sculptures were on loan to the V&A. He decided to donate these to the V&A in honour of the French and British soldiers currently involved in the fighting.

This memorial was commissioned from Eric Gill in memory of the Museum staff who died in the First World War. It can be found in the Grand Entrance.



Harrods, Brompton Road

The Mayor of Kensington, William Davison, raised the 22nd 'Kensington' Battalion. This meant he was then responsible for equipping the soldiers but army provisions were in short supply in the autumn of 1914. The Mayor managed to write to Harrods and get some of their last rolls of khaki for the men's uniforms. Here are the samples they sent him.



St Luke's Church

A huge amount of patriotic effort on the home front was directed towards raising money to offset the huge financial burden imposed on Britain by the cost of the War. Savers would often get relatively small returns on their money but it would be guaranteed by the safety of a government scheme and they would have the satisfaction of feeling they were helping the war effort.

21 Whitehead's Grove

As this poster shows, not everyone was keen to do his patriotic duty. Ernest Watts-Tye, one of the men named, appears to have been an actor who spent the second half of the war appearing at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre in plays such as *St George and the Dragon* and *How He Lied to Her Husband*.



10a Elystan Place

Reginald Wells was a Chelsea potter and sculptor but when the war came he decided to put his long-held interest in flying to good use. Elystan Place was where the Wells Aviation Company was based during the war. They began by making parts but were soon constructing whole aircraft. The firm was unusual for its time as women were actually employed on the factory floor.

