Section 387

Refugees

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The people of Britain had been particularly touched by the plight of the Belgians, as it was to aid Belgium that Britain had entered the war. However they soon began to realise that many other countries and peoples had been affected and the response was generous. In this section we cover some of the responses from the people of Berkshire.

Collections and Prayers

As soon as war was declared collections were made to relieve distress in various places from Serbia to London, funds were set up to provide comforts for the troops Almost every week thereafter there was a subscription list of some sort published. On 21st October the band of Grenadier Guards gave two concerts at the Town Hall to raise funds for Belgian relief.

Days were organised for various nationalities who had suffered from the war. A Belgian Day raised £551 from ladies selling favours in the streets of Reading. These were bows and rosettes of red, yellow and black and over 75,000 were sold for donations ranging from a penny to a sovereign. A Russian flag-day on Sept 18th 1915 raised £2142 in Reading.

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