

Section 391

The Home Front 1916-1919

Berkshire Commerce and Industry

After the war many companies in Berkshire reported on their activities during the war and on the contribution made by their employees.

Reading Post Office

221 men and 36 officers from the Post Office joined the colours, even though being a postman was a reserved occupation. D L Hamilton was commissioned in the field and the following won medals:-

J B Bushnell MM, DCM

P G Holloway MM

A Graham DCM

A W Sear DCM

W F Brice MID

G W Fludder MBE

HEW Newman MSM

RW Redhead MSM

295 names appear on the Reading Post Office Roll of Honour. Of these 6 were females in the QMAAC, 267 were in the Army, 16 in the Air Force and 6 in the Navy.

Reading Mercury 8/2/19 and 14/6/19

Huntley and Palmers

Huntley and Palmers played a very special role in the war by their supply of tins of biscuits to the army. It was the emphasis on 'Reading Berkshire' which earned the Royal Berkshire Regiment their association with biscuits. However no less than 1833 men from the factories and offices of the Company served with the Colours. 145 of them were killed and these were listed in the Reading Mercury of 21st June 1919. 47 of them also won medals, 1 DSO, 4 MC, 5 foreign, 3 MSM, 1 DSM, 1 DCM, 5 MID, 1 MM and 1 MM & bar.
Reading Mercury 7/6/19 and 14/6/19

By Jan 11th 1917 1395 employees had joined either the army or the navy and there were only 24 men remaining who were fit for military service (*Berkshire Chronicle 19/1/1917*)