

Wartime West Sussex 1939 - 1945 ON THE HOME FRONT - FUNDRAISING AND COLLECTING

Children help with Worthing book drive

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Extracts from an article

GOING WELL

Worthing's Book And Salvage Drive

Worthing's Book Drive, when Borough officials are expecting to be able to collect 100,000 books in 14 days, is going well at the moment. Mr. P. E. Harvey, O.B.E., the Borough Engineer, told a *Worthing Gazette* reporter on Monday that up to then about 7,000 books had come in.

The drive started on Saturday and will continue until next Saturday week, February 19th.

Under the expert guidance of the Borough Librarian, Miss Ethel Gerard, members of the Library staff and a team of voluntary workers are busy sorting the books in the former Police Court at the Town Hall. The books and magazines are graded into three sections, some for forwarding to men and women in the Services, some for re-stocking war-damaged libraries and some for re-pulping for the manufacture of war materials.

All books which will be sent to the Services are stamped "To the Fighting Services wherever you may be, with best wishes from the residents of Worthing, Sussex."

Depots for the receiving of books have been set up at the following places:—

JUVENILE EFFORTS.

Worthing's juvenile efforts towards the Book Drive look like surpassing all in the town, for with their unflagging enthusiasm they are knocking at doors and bringing in piles of books for salvage.

Mr. A. Warner, who visited the schools in connection with the campaign, told the boys and girls that, generally, they produced 80 per cent., and that he was a Worthingite himself and hoped they would make their efforts the greatest.

As a result, the schoolchildren have poured in their books and have begun to acquire a series of badges for their work.

For the first book that a child brings he or she is made a "Private" in the campaign; for 50 he becomes a "Captain"; for 150 a "General," and 250 a "Field-Marshal."

The drive has raised the query. What is a book?

The answer is six pages bound in any way.

Books are now rolling in by the thousand, and few children are not wearing the badges belonging to this popular campaign.

Mr. D. A. Best, as Headmaster of West Tarring Senior Boys' School, is one of those who is absolutely sure that the schoolchildren's effort will be the greatest of all.

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