

'Eggs for the Wounded': A Study of Contributions to the National Egg Collection in West Sussex



(www.loc.gov/pictures/related/?fi=subject=chickens. England 1910-1920. No known restrictions on publication.) <http://www.ww1propoganderposters/> [1]

By Maria Fryday

Introduction:

I first became intrigued by reports on 'Eggs for the Wounded' whilst researching some information with regard to my maternal grandparents Fanny Ethel Foskett and William Sydney Manning, who served with the Royal Sussex Regiment, and later, from 1916, with the 2/6th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. They had apparently married during my late grandfather's leave in October 1917, and I decided to review the local newspaper to see if, remotely, their marriage had been reported. It was not. However, weekly records of egg collections for the southern West Sussex area were noted with some pomp, and so began a trawl of reports on these items. West Sussex County Council were evidently interested in such information to collect to supplement the forthcoming documentation of information relating to persons and issues concerned with West Sussex during World War 1 (WW1) also referred to as The Great War, and so I continued to research my unintentional project, concentrating on local – for me - information detailed within the Chichester Observer and West Sussex Recorder.

I had no expectation when started to research this topic that I would write to such length, nor that the Reference List at the end would become so extensive... So, a shortened version will be provided as well, to make it less challenging to read. You would be advised to review the full piece of work as well.

The information supplied within this study concentrates upon my local area, centering on the towns of Chichester, Bognor, Westbourne, and the villages of Donnington (most of my life spent here!), Apuldram and Merston. Although up to thirty seven localities have been referred to with regard to eggs collected for the wounded, I have chosen to concentrate upon comparing three larger localities and three small villages, as examples of what was achieved, and to simplify presentation of the results. The full extent of information relating to egg collections can be found in each edition of the Chichester Observer and West Sussex Recorder – and linked versions for Bognor and Littlehampton.

Locations and organisations listed at various times within the Chichester Observer and West Sussex Recorder during the period February 1915 to December 1918 include; Chichester(sometimes donations were discreet for City and Brotherhood, plus Saddlers, Sykes, Lancastrian Boys School and Chichester High School for Boys [2]), Littlehampton, Westbourne (including at times Emsworth, Southbourne, Nutbourne and Prinsted),

Bognor (cumulative records were made with regard to the efforts of Mrs Baker, Mrs Hawkes, Mrs Williams-White, Mrs Waugh, Mr Cattley, Miss Claire, Miss Beattie Lewington, Master A. Cook, and Mrs Shepherd, plus numbers of eggs bought each week for the Bognor contributions[3]), Fundington, Boxgrove, Felpham, West Wittering, Barnham, Apuldram (sometimes spelt Appledram), Arundel, Yapton, Lyminster, Birdham, Selsey, Walberton, Aldingbourne, Sidlesham, Lavant, Chidham, Oving, Tangmere, Earnley, East Wittering, Rustington, West Dean, Westhampnett, Chilgrove, Eastergate, East Dean, Merston, West Itchenor, Hunston and Donnington [4].

Collected egg donations were shared around sites in Graylingwell, Royal West Sussex Hospital, East Preston, Littlehampton, Emsworth, Arundel, and hospitals in France.

Records for egg donations were kept reasonably accurately and consistently in the Chichester Observer and West Sussex Recorder between 1915 and 1916 inclusive, but reports varied somewhat in quality from 1917 to the end of 1918, perhaps influenced by a variety of writing styles or ability of different reporters, or the depot coordinator was imprecise. Weekly tallies of collected eggs were mostly headed by 'Eggs for the Wounded' [5], 'Eggs for the Soldiers' [6], 'Last Week's Egg Collection' [7], 'New laid eggs for Wounded Soldiers' [8], the National Egg Collection [9], and 'Queen Alexandra and Eggs for the Wounded' [10]. The latter report also noted that Queen Alexandra had become Patroness for the National Egg Collection, to help boost donations [11].

The War Crisis and Establishment of Egg Collecting

The first obvious mention of the war crisis (WW1) in the Chichester Observer and West Sussex Recorder occurs within the publication dated 5th August 1914, which is concerned with the commencement of mobilisation of troops within the county of West Sussex [12]. An article concerning the food supply in the 19th August 1914 edition [13] implies care in supply is needed, but is mainly focused at that stage on cereal crops and feeding the general population. Editorials tended to cover Rolls of Honour regarding mobilisation of local people, naming personnel from each town or village within the Chichester / southern West Sussex District.

A National Relief Fund tally is noted in 28th October 1914 [14] in which the residents of Donnington had donated £11 6s 0d, a significant sum for a small village of roughly 200 population [15]. However, in the 28th October 1914 publication, an article provided by a Mr Edward Brown appears [16] in which he promotes the farming of poultry and egg production,

particularly using 'high quality' Sussex chickens. The poultry industry is 'capable of great extension'. At this point, Mr Brown is evidently concerned with developing food production within England, and particularly West Sussex, as he notes that in 1913 up to 71% of food imports applied to poultry. Prior to WW1 Britain relied upon imports from America and the Empire to feed the people at home [17], Britain producing as little as 40% of needs in food overall [18]. With supplies of foods vastly disrupted by potential and actual blockades and attacks by the German navy, availability of food to the populace was considerably reduced, with risk of malnutrition, and potential starvation. Britain did, however, initially attempt to follow a 'business as usual' approach to gathering food for the population, placing faith and belief in 'free trade, free currency and free enterprise'. [19] Although it is evident that egg collections for the wounded were clearly being promoted by early 1915 [20], food control generally was only really considered, apparently, by late 1916 [21]. The change of approach occurred after the new coalition Government, led by Lloyd George, brought in a 'highly interventionist' policy [22] following a poor wheat harvest in America [23] and further from pressure caused by resumed unrestricted German submarine warfare, from 1st February 1917 [24]. Egg production before and generally during the First World War was mostly perceived as a subsidiary activity, as eggs were produced 'chiefly by women on the farms, who ... earned money to pay for groceries.' [25]. Mr Edward Brown – see above – was astute to recognise that a potentially long lasting war could be detrimental to supplies of chickens, and eggs as a source of nutrition for the local populace. He also notes that chickens would be more cost-effective than keeping turkeys or ducks – the more commonly utilised before the war, and their manure would benefit crop production [26]. It is unclear whether or not his views were well received in relation to the national farming situation. The comments by historian Brian Bond [27] would imply this was not the case, in the early stages of the war.

No mention regarding eggs collected to aid recovery for the wounded military of the South West of the county (West Sussex) is evident for August, September October, November nor December 1914, with regard to the Chichester Observer and West Sussex Recorder. However, in the 20th January 1915 edition [28] an article appears, entitled 'New laid eggs for wounded soldiers; who will help?' The article continues to announce that the Chichester Egg Collection Depot would be opened that day – 20th January 1915 – at number 57 East Street, Chichester. The coordinator, a Mrs Close, 'hopes to find someone from each village to undertake to collect the eggs and convey them' to Chichester. This is an apparent response to a requirement being issued by the War Office, that 200 000 eggs per week would be needed to aid the recovery of wounded soldiers within England, and that the 'National Egg Collection has been established

and is now in full operation'. The article notes that there is 'no restriction on the number of eggs for donation' to the cause. The reason given for the intensive promotion of egg donations is given as 'there is no more valuable nutrient or recuperative food than a fresh egg...'

Nutritional Value of Eggs.

Attempting to identify and establish exactly what people understood the precise valuable nutritional content of eggs to be during 1914 – 1918 has proven somewhat elusive, in spite of an extensive literature search for the period. Reputable websites and resources searches such as Medline and CINHALL (Cumulative Index for Nursing and Allied Health Care Literature) were surprisingly unhelpful, but may have been restricted to recent issues only, rather than historic information. However, some enlightenment was found as follows:

L. Harkness, in the March 2002 edition of The Journal of the American Dietetic Association [29], reviewed continuous and controlled delivery of types of diet and routes of delivery including liquid nutrition to injured military personnel in 1916. The focus of this research was concerned with ways of improving enteral feeding techniques and implementing optimal patient care strategies, such as administering nutrients via a naso-gastric tube. How nutrients were broken down to allow optimum administration to wounded soldiers at that time is not clearly defined. However, it is not apparently a relatively new method of sustaining injured or ill people. R. Chernoff, who researched enteral feeding, notes in the journal Nutrition in Clinical Practice that the history of enteral feeding goes back 3500 years [30]; the ancient Egyptians and Greeks used enteral feeding via an enema. "Modern" administration of enteral feeding by gastrostomy tube seems to have been developed in the late 19th Century in the West. [31]

Most research responses to 'eggs' for WW1 refer to egg-shaped hand grenades, or lice!

Chicken eggs have been noted to contain a broad variety of nutrients essential to the human body, including vitamin D, retinol, riboflavin, iodine, iron, protein, vitamin B12 [32].

Vitamin D:

Vitamin D has various effects on the body, which includes controlling the amounts of calcium and phosphate present, so promoting good health and maintenance of bones and teeth. Deficiencies currently mainly affect children and the elderly [33]. It has been suggested recently, author's name not clear, that injured military personnel may experience increased muscle and bone pain following injury [34] Calcium is a mineral which

promotes strength in bones and muscle movement, and also helps in the transmission of chemical messages between the brain and body tissues via the nervous system. [35] Phosphate acts as a buffer salt in the acid-base (pH) balance of the blood and other body fluids. It is also concerned with anaerobic release of energy in the process of muscle contraction. Phosphate is excreted via urine and faeces, and has to be replaced by diet [36].

Retinol:

Retinol is a pure form of Vitamin A, and is concerned with the stimulation of collagen production in the skin. In current times, retinol is mainly linked to use in anti-ageing creams [37] However, Vitamin A, which is fat soluble, in the form of retinol, produces pigments in the retina of the eye and so promotes low-light vision. Vitamin A is also important in promoting healthy teeth, skeletal tissue, soft tissue, mucous membranes, and the skin [38].

Riboflavin:

Riboflavin is also known as Vitamin B 2. It is part of the Vitamin B complex which helps the body to metabolise fats and proteins, and to promote normal function of the nervous system. The body does not store Vitamin B 2 (Riboflavin), nor other B Vitamins, because these are water soluble. Riboflavin also acts as an antioxidant to fight damaged particles within the body, and also aids body growth and red blood cell formation. A lack of riboflavin may result in fatigue, slowed growth, digestive issues, cracks and sores around the mouth, swollen tongue, swelling and soreness in the throat, and light sensitivity [39].

Iodine:

Iodine is a mineral, and is essential for the body being able to manufacture thyroid hormones, which in turn control the body's metabolism. Metabolism is essentially the process in which physical and chemical processes build up or break down energy sources [40]. A deficiency of iodine may result in retarded growth, mental retardation, and particularly for adults, reduced ability to think and work clearly [41]. It is therefore possible that traumatised war veterans, who lack sufficient iodine during recuperation, may experience significantly increased distress and mental health issues.

Iron:

Iron is a mineral. When formed with Haemoglobin, a blood protein in the red blood cells, iron helps to bind and carry oxygen from the lungs to the body cells. A deficiency of iron may result in anaemia, which causes an inability to carry sufficient oxygen, resulting in fatigue, and memory and

mental dysfunction [42]. So, a lack of iron would have an adverse effect on the recovery and well-being of injured soldiers, possibly enhancing the mental traumas of death and injury. Eggs cooked and served to personnel who could cope with oral intake of such foods, would have some help to limit the difficulties in coming to terms with brutal fighting.

Protein:

Essentially, proteins are required by the body for maintenance and repair of structure and function, and regulation of the body's tissues and organs. Antibodies are developed to fight foreign invading substances such as viruses and bacteria; enzymes carry out chemical reactions and the formation of new molecules; hormonal messengers transmit signals which affect biological processes; some proteins are concerned with transport and storage by binding molecules, such as iron, for later use in the body [43].

Vitamin B 12:

Vitamin B 12 is necessary for the formation of red blood cells, and it is also important in synthesising DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid). It is especially important in aiding rebuilding tissues following injury. Vitamin B 12 has also apparently been linked to helping relief of battle depression and poor convalescence [44].

Posters to Highlight Food Issues

Posters seem to have been used widely during WW1 to transmit information and inspire people to act in specific ways, and claimed to have been the biggest impact as a means of communication during the period 1914 – 1918 [45]. Posters were used 'inspire, inform and persuade specific responses'. A significant number of posters, relating to various themes, were published in Britain. Most were published in America. A significant number were produced relating to food issues, including the collection of eggs. One widely used lithograph which was linked to the 'Eggs for the Wounded' campaign was published in 1915, and is shown at the top of this study, and again here. The poster included a caption which stated 'Enlisted for the duration of the war. Help the National Egg Collection for the wounded' [46]. The poster was distributed nationally.



[www.loc.gov/pictures/related/?fi=subject=chickens . England-1910-1920. No known restrictions on publication.] www.ww1propgandaposters [47]

Queen Alexandra provided personal patronage to the campaign at an early stage, which was followed up to maintain its momentum. An advertisement, published in *The Times*, on October 17th 1917, appeared at a time when the campaign may have been flagging.

As can be seen in tables 2 – 5 below, donations of eggs during the first two years of WW1 were generous, but tailed off considerably from the beginning of 1917. This may be a result of the overall food shortage throughout the country, and / or a feeling of lack of priorities when news was bringing daily reports of the deaths of loved ones.

The 'Eggs for the Wounded' campaign was also supported by 'child friendly' posters, specifically aimed at children, to encourage young people to bring egg donations to school. In the South Western part of West Sussex, such as in Chichester and Merston, Mundham and Hunston School, periodic donations by school groups were made. Chichester schools donated eggs on a reasonably regular basis, and are included in the Chichester totals in the tables. Contributions from village schools have been noted in the tables below, because they help to show the commitment of small rural communities to the egg collection effort. Egg collections, however, reduced dramatically through 1918, perhaps as a result of overall food shortages, or from the dramatic loss of life affecting local communities. There is also an impression from the data collected from the Chichester Observer that, perhaps, records were not reproduced with full accuracy and care...

The poster shown below was produced for one local group and aimed at children for Epsom and Ewell. No similar poster has been traced, as yet, for West Sussex.



www.epsomandewellhistoryexplorer.org.uk [49]

The 'Eggs for the Wounded' Records for South Western West Sussex

As stated above, I have concentrated on presenting the results for three local towns and three villages as examples of local interest. Reports of egg collections for the area during the years 1915 – 1918 generally showed steady numbers of eggs for each specific location. However, Donnington's egg donations at times varied rather dramatically. I was rather intrigued by this, and so looked for supplementary incidences which may explain broad variations, such as in January 1917 when one week no eggs were donated, and the next seventy- two had been. Further review of the Chichester Observer for January 1917 resulted in discovery of a seven year-old girl being shot in Donnington village, and buried the following week. Although the sad event was not directly linked to egg collecting, the tragedy was a poignant story to read about. There is a short review of this situation at the end of this study. I highlight issues for Donnington here, partly perhaps from bias because I grew up in Donnington, but also, said village seems rarely to be mentioned at all in village news, both during WW1, and current times in the local paper. A tragic and shocking event is striking; irregular donations to the war effort seem – uncharitable (See Table 4).

As research continued, it became evident that detail and possibly accuracy of documenting egg donations from across the district varied slightly, depending perhaps upon who was responsible for entering the information in each weekly publication. Donnington's donations were found to vary throughout the four-year war period, either perhaps because no-one could regularly take donations into the Chichester depot, or there may have been confusion, or tedium, of reporting similar repetitive information. Generally, collections for Chichester, Bognor Westbourne, Apuldram and Merston were regular and reasonably constant during WW1. Merston's collections were either 06 or 12 each week!

The first weekly collection of eggs was reported on 27th January 1915 to have totalled 336 eggs, described as an 'encouraging 'start [50]. The main donations came from Chichester, Merston, West Hampnett, and Apuldram; Donnington, Westbourne and Bognor were not mentioned. Donnington's donations begin to appear from 3rd February 1915 [51], and Bognor's (6 eggs) from 17th February 1915. [52] Reports for Westbourne's donations (33 eggs) start from 10th March 1915 [53]. Within the same edition of the Chichester Observer, in which it is noted that Chichester residents donate 129 eggs, plus the Chichester Brotherhood donated 42 eggs, a letter was published, written by a Mr W. E. Humley, of Clydesdale Avenue, Chichester. In his letter Mr Humley notes that Bognor 'has shown but little interest, may be due ...not brought to people's attention.' [54] He states he has now agreed to undertake the task, and call upon the local – Bognor – egg producers to improve matters. It is not clear if Mr Humley originally came from Bognor, but he was evidently upset by the poor tally. His efforts seem to have been inspirational, because from 17th March 1915, Bognor's egg collections do significantly increase, [55] and soon, there is evidence of competition between Bognor and Chichester, as well as Westbourne, to identify which township has collected the most eggs per week for wounded soldiers (and sailors). Bognor tended to regularly take the lead (see tables below).

Bognor and Chichester donations were at times reported according to specific groups or individuals, such as the Chichester Brotherhood, Sykes, and other organisations, but I have amalgamated the results for each town for ease of review. In the Chichester editions of the Observer and West Sussex Recorder, a breakdown of each significant donor is provided, but Bognor's discreet donors are not, generally, mentioned.

There are also periodic reports of scarcities of eggs within the district, along with other foods, such as in the 17th November 1915 edition of the Chichester Observer, [56] but donations seem to have continued on a reasonably constant basis across the district, at least during the first two years of the Great War. A letter from a Mr R.J. Dartnall, in the same publication [57] notes that although 'there is a great scarcity of eggs...even

the poor could...' contribute 'a little' by means of paying into a Stamp Scheme. One hopes, with a view of an individual living in 2013, that this suggestion was helpful, rather than insulting to poor people who were surely doing their best already to help the egg collection scheme. The results of egg donations, as shown in the tables below, could suggest that 'the poor' may have donated from their own (rural based) modest supplies, depending upon the cooperation, as it were, of the few chickens they owned. Furthermore, children were encouraged to collect eggs and take them to school. In fact, average weekly collections imply that rural communities contributed more eggs per person than town dwellers (see tables 1-5).

Shortages of food supplies also seem to have resulted in episodes of theft, including antisocial behaviour by young boys. For example, in the Chichester Observer edition of Wednesday 6 September 1916 [58] a letter was published referring to a 'young boy in trouble' for stealing eggs from a Mr Frederick Horner, of 44 East Street, Littlehampton. Three eggs, valued at nine pence (9d) were taken; 'some' of the eggs had been marked by the hen owner and placed in the hen house. Five hours later, the eggs were seen to be taken 'by the defendant, 'EB', and 'two other boys'. Their defence was that the eggs 'were there'. EB alleged he had been tempted to skip school by the other two boys when the event took place. EB's mother was fined five shillings, a significant sum at that time. Apparently, the average wage in England at the start of WW1 was £51 per year [59]; the average weekly wage for a man was 31 shillings and for a woman this was 14 shillings [60]. So, EB's mother may have been fined just under half her weekly wage. No evidence has been found with regard to the punishment, if any, to have been passed to the parents of the other two, unnamed, boys.

TABLES TO SHOW EGG COLLECTIONS FOR CHICHESTER, BOGNOR, WESTBOURNE, DONNINGTON, APULDRAM AND MERSTON:

Table 1) **Eggs collected between 27 January–31 March 1915.** [61-70]

TOWN/ VILLAGE	CHICHESTER	BOGNOR	WESTBOURNE	DONNINGTON	APULDRAM	MERSTON
27 JAN 1915	81	---	---	---	06	12
3 FEB 1915	105	---	---	12	19	12
10 FEB 1915	111	---	---	12	21	12
17 FEB 1915	153	24	---	12	19	12
24 FEB 1915	96	06	---	18	15	12
3 MAR 1915	151	30	---	15	21	12
10 MAR 1915	129	32	---	12	20	12
17 MAR 1915	183	102	30	12	21	12
24 MAR 1915	166	101	72	36	21	12
31 MAR 1915	305	400	125	30	20	06

Information is displayed in the above table in order to show the dates at which each town or village began to donate eggs towards the national egg collection within the South Western area of West Sussex. As can be seen in Table 1, Chichester, Merston and Apuldram begin at the earliest possible time for records to be made; Donnington follows closely the following week, the 3rd February 1915, Bognor two weeks later on 17th February 1915, and Westbourne on 17th March 1915.

Table 2) **Eggs collected between 7 April–29 December 1915**^[71- 108]

TOWN/ VILLAGE	CHICHESTER	BOGNOR	WESTBOURNE	DONNINGTON	APULDRAM	MERSTON
7 APRIL 1915	453	400	135	24	20	18
14 APRIL 1915	548	630	217	18	20	12
21 APRIL 1915	264	555	246	30	24	12
28 APRIL 1915	281	560	246	18	30	12
5 MAY 1915	190	626	308	306	18	12
12 MAY 1915	182	673	342	18	33	12
19 MAY 1915	317	672	400	--	25	12
26 MAY 1915	284	808	509	24	24	12
2 JUNE 1915	650	1072	502	12	24	12
9 JUNE 1915	604	1170	600	12	48	12
16 JUNE 1915	952	1613	610	12	24	06
23 JUNE 1915	1204	1404	748	12	25	18
30 JUNE 1915	--	--	--	--	--	--
7 JULY 1915	1395	1936	704	18	36	18[sch353]
14 JULY 1915	907	1144	549	12	45	12
21 JULY 1915	880	1332	577	24	35	12
28 JULY 1915	699	1511	503	12	--	12
4 AUG 1915	393	1360	610	12	40	12
11 AUG 1915	495	1236	503	12	--	12
18 AUG 1915	384	1500	404	18	45	12
25 AUG 1915	1938	1589	1668	56	65	20[sch104]
1 SEPT 1915	419	985	500	12	55	12[sch165]
8 SEPT 1915	434	1024	426	12	43	12
15 SEPT 1915	433	87	401	24	44	12
22 SEPT 1915	498	1113	416	18	42	12
29 SEPT 1915	455	884	400	12	41	12
6 OCT 1915	624	528	373	18	40	12
13 OCT 1915	592	540	433	--	45	12
20 OCT 1915	787	545	400	--	34	36
27 OCT 1915	356	570	344	36	28	12
3 NOV 1915	157	384	234	12	23	12
10 NOV 1915	475	429	158	12	25	12
17 NOV 1915	522	318	208	12	25	12[sch26]
24 NOV 1915	398	268	276	12	27	12
1 DEC 1915	403	519	256	--	29	12
8 DEC 1915	407	444	192	42	22	12
15 DEC 1915	367	420	251	06	22	00[sch31]
22 DEC 1915	364	186	168	12	24	12
29 DEC 1915	392	290	504	18	25	12
AVERAGE pw:	541	802	418	23	30	13 [13]

The weekly average (April onwards) for Chichester for Table 2 is 541 eggs; Bognor is 802; Westbourne is 418; Donnington is 23; Apuldram is 30; Merston is 13; Mundham / Merston / Hunston School is also 13 (so 26). If the approximate population of Donnington was 200 [15] and that of Chichester was 12000^[71], it may be seen that the average weekly donation of fresh eggs per 100 population was 4.5 eggs for Chichester, and 11.5 for Donnington, which implies that the so-called rural poor were donating more to the National Egg Collection per person than their town dwelling cousins. However, it may have been easier for rural residents to keep poultry, by having access to outdoor space. It is intriguing to note that Merston's average totalled **13** eggs for the 39 week period, when that village's score was mostly a monotonous 12; the school's total boosts Merston's result to 26.

Table 3) **Eggs collected between 5 January–27 December 1916.** [109
 – 157]

TOWN/ VILLAGE	CHICHESTER	BOGNOR	WESTBOURNE	DONNINGTON	APULDRAM	MERSTON
5 JAN 1916	90	--	264	06	30	12
12 JAN 1916	92	625	334	24	--	12 [sch 44]
19 JAN 1916	201	384	256	--	34	12
26 JAN 1916	335	444	303	42	34	12 [sch 88]
2 FEB 1916	397	507	266	--	33	24
9 FEB 1916	388	427	264	12	40	12
16 FEB 1916	414	388	307	24	45	12
23 FEB 1916	193	477	300	12	45	12
1 MAR 1916	508	462	296	12	45	12
8 MAR 1916	348	444	300	84	39	12 [sch 72]
15 MAR 1916	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
22 MAR 1916	399	444	315	--	39	12
29 MAR 1916	374	386	---	--	42	12
5 APRIL 1916	373	431	300	78	43	12 [sch 137]
12 APRIL 1916	489	636	408	--	41	18
19 APRIL 1916	433	714	371	--	42	12
26 APRIL 1916	803	650	300	--	58	12
3 MAY 1916	281	726	1053	72	833 [?]	12 [sch 135]
10 MAY 1916	181	516	---	12	39	12
17 MAY 1916	318	751	299	--	43	12 [sch 150]
24 MAY 1916	409	567	412	12	40	12
31 MAY 1916	251	380	364	12	42	12 [sch 122]
7 JUNE 1916	273	516	420	78	47	12
14 JUNE 1916	166	516	364	07	33	12
21 JUNE 1916	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
28 JUNE 1916	309	149	276	--	38	12 [sch 96]
5 JULY 1916	324	522	312	84	37	12
12 JULY 1916	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
19 JULY 1916	159	616	240	06	85	12
26 JULY 1916	179	816	346	--	42	12 [sch 85]
2 AUG 1916	353	780	288	--	44	12
9 AUG 1916	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
16 AUG 1916	154	420	204	--	46	12
23 AUG 1916	101	269	240	06	42	18
30 AUG 1916	399	420	204	--	46	12
6 SEPT 1916	076 +300*	241	---	72	37	12
13 SEPT 1916	046	341	495	--	28	12
20 SEPT 1916	119	545	348	--	--	12
27 SEPT 1916	055	672	204	--	34	12
4 OCT 1916	575	143	204	72	32	12
11 OCT 1916	346	300	204	--	32	12
18 OCT 1916	297	300	---	--	25	06 [sch 28]
25 OCT 1916	134	328	150	--	14	06
1 NOV 1916	241	300	144	72	13	--
8 NOV 1916	109+165*	240	120	--	36	06
15 NOV 1916	168 +30*	---	048	--	14	06
22 NOV 1916	116	213	048	--	16	06
29 NOV 1916	155+30*	255	136	60	22	06
6 DEC 1916	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
13 DEC 1916	115	115	126	06	27	06
20 DEC 1916	080	185	192	--	31	06
27 DEC 1916	104+140*	---	204	--	29	06
Average pw:	216	375.7	219.3	9.4	26	9.6 [18]

*Refers to eggs bought with the aid of monetary donations.

As can be seen above, the three towns vie with each other week-by-week to be 'top' in donations scores, with Bognor clearly in the lead; Apuldrum has an – almost unbelievable donation of 85 eggs on 19 July 1916, as well as a weekly average 26 per week; Merston's average was 9.6 [27.6

including school total], and Donnington's erratic totals – perhaps donations were delivered to Chichester Depot on a monthly basis – resulted in an average of 9.4 eggs per week.

Table 4) **Eggs collected between 3 January-26 December 1917.** [158-194]

TOWN/ VILLAGE	CHICHESTER	BOGNOR	WESTBOURNE	DONNINGTON	APULDRAM	MERSTON
3 JAN 1917	184	120	300	--	38	06
10 JAN 1917	164	---	202	06	33	06
17 JAN 1917	017	240	204	--	34	06
24 JAN 1917	107	175	168	72	44	06
31 JAN 1917	292	247	168	--	29	06
7 FEB 1917	028	338	264	--	30	12
14 FEB 1917	254	186	168	--	36	06
21 FEB 1917	NOT SEEN	---	---	--	--	--
28 FEB 1917	165	183	204	72	34	12
7 MAR 1917	Not seen	Illegible	---	--	--	--
14 MAR 1917	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
21 MAR 1917	331	331	244	72	44	06[sch159]
28 MAR 1917	275	205	276	--	33	06
4 APRIL 1917	021	185	204	32	43	06
11 APRIL 1917	280	239	296	--	38	12
18 APRIL 1917	172	240	---	132	56	12
25 APRIL 1917	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
2 MAY 1917	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
9 MAY 1917	065	179	---	--	61	12
16 MAY 1917	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
23 MAY 1917	228	290	204	72	67	12
30 MAY 1917	269	220	240	--	57	06[sch149]
6 JUNE 1917	070	204	168	72	92	06
13 JUNE 1917	113	180	204	--	100	06
20 JUNE 1917	133	180	240	72	65	06
27 JUNE 1917	235	---	204	--	78	06[sch114]
4 JULY 1917	168	312	---	--	56	06
11 JULY 1917	124	116	304	--	51	06
18 JULY 1917	035	117	264	--	43	06
25 JULY 1917	Not seen	---	204	--	78	06[sch114]
1 AUG 1917	154	240	174	--	--	06
8 AUG 1917	097	133	174	--	82	06
15 AUG 1917	186	190	211	--	49	06
22 AUG 1917	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
29 AUG 1917	208	180	250	--	--	06
5 SEPT 1917	133	218	---	--	39	06
12 SEPT 1917	143	227	200	--	38	06[sch 48]
19 SEPT 1917	099	214	170	--	--	06
26 SEPT 1917	086	248	200	--	44	06[sch 40]
3 OCT 1917	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
10 OCT 1917	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
17 OCT 1917	155	251	162	--	22	06[sch42]
24 OCT 1917	159	240	148	60	--	06
31 OCT 1917	086	248	200	--	44	06[sch40]
7 NOV 1917	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
14 NOV 1917	112	048	---	24	21	12
21 NOV 1917	115	098	100	--	--	--
28 NOV 1917	115	---	---	--	21	12
5 DEC 1917	130	168	184	72	27	06
12 DEC 1917	067	264	262	--	--	--
19 DEC 1917	113	230	295	--	--	12[sch 30]
26 DEC 1917	063	204	---	--	24	06
Average pw:	106	150.1	141.9	14.6	32	5.7[14.2]

In table 4, allowing for erratic and/or illegible records, the donation trend for the three towns has dropped considerably; Apuldram's tally has

improved and Donnington's contributions although lower than for 1915, has improved slightly for 1917, in spite of seemingly infrequent records that year.

Table 5) **Eggs collected between – 2 January-25 December 1918.**^[195-233]

TOWN/ VILLAGE	CHICHESTER	BOGNOR	WESTBOURNE	DONNINGTON	APULDRAM	MERSTON
2 JAN 1918	192	---	417	72	22	18
9 JAN 1918	123	---	186	--	24	12
16 JAN 1918	078	180	174	--	--	06
23 JAN 1918	126	317	156	--	25	06
30 JAN 1918	222	---	300	--	28	06[sch 66]
6 FEB 1918	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
13 FEB 1918	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
20 FEB 1918	079	180	204	--	30	--
27 FEB 1918	086	106	201	--	39	06[sch 78]
6 MAR 1918	---	---	---	--	--	--
13 MAR 1918	---	---	---	--	--	--
20 MAR 1918	---	---	---	--	--	--
27 MAR 1918	---	---	---	--	--	--
3 APRIL 1918	475	---	322	--	33	12[sch65]
10 APRIL 1918	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
17 APRIL 1918	086	240	220	72	36	06
24 APRIL 1918	106	336	220	--	37	06
1 MAY 1918	083	---	200	--	51	12
8 MAY 1918	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
15 MAY 1918	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
22 MAY 1918	093	---	211	06	32	12
29 MAY 1918	067	---	168	72	33	12
5 JUNE 1918	275	---	158	--	31	12[sch 66]
12 JUNE 1918	067	---	156	--	23	12
19 JUNE 1918	077	---	174	--	25	06
26 JUNE 1918	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
3 JULY 1918	Not seen	---	180	--	30	12
10 JULY 1918	111	---	---	--	25	18
17 JULY 1918	029	---	106	--	25	06
24 JULY 1918	123	---	---	--	25	06
31 JULY 1918	027	---	187	--	23	06[sch 38]
7 AUG 1918	069	---	218	--	25	06
14 AUG 1918	061	---	226	--	--	06
21 AUG 1918	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
28 AUG 1918	089	---	096	--	--	--
4 SEPT 1918	089	---	096	72	--	06
11 SEPT 1918	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
18 SEPT 1918	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
25 SEPT 1918	050	---	288	--	--	06
2 OCT 1918	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
9 OCT 1918	085	---	048	--	18	06
16 OCT 1918	103	---	180	--	16	06
23 OCT 1918	063	---	---	--	13	06
30 OCT 1918	009	---	126	--	12	06
6 NOV 1918	039	---	---	--	12	06
13 NOV 1918	026	---	096	--	12	06
20 NOV 1918	036	---	---	--	11	06
27 NOV 1918	036	---	---	--	11	06
4 DEC 1918	Not seen	---	---	--	--	--
11 DEC 1918	039	---	090	--	09	06
18 DEC 1918	030	---	---	--	--	--
25 DEC 1918	030	---	150	--	27	12
Average	60.5	26.1	106.8	5.6	14.7	5 [6]

To summarise Table 5, there is an evident drop in clearly recorded egg donations throughout 1918, particularly for Bognor. Perhaps Bognor's egg collections were recorded in another publication. Donnington's average has significantly reduced; the memorial in St. George's Church porch lists nine local people had died during WW1. However, Merston had managed to remain fairly constant, although the school's contributions decreased by 12.2%. Apuldrum's and Chichester's donations have virtually halved; Bognor's plummeted and Westbourne's total for 1917 is modest, but not as dramatically reduced as the other listed areas. As noted earlier, food supply became increasingly weak as the war progressed, and so donations of 'spare' eggs would perhaps have been significantly compromised. For most weekly publications in 1918, from April onwards, there is a supplement on the war, including articles to promote enthusiasm to continue fighting 'the enemy'.

It is unclear from the newspaper records whether or not children from Donnington School had donated eggs to the cause, compared to generous efforts by families and children attending Mundham, Merston and Hunston School (see tables 1-5 above). Donnington Church of England School had been founded in 1860 [234], and seems to have fairly well attended, for a small village school during 1914-1918, for example, 37 children attended during 1915 [235].

If the average weekly egg collection results are presented in a graph (not provided!), it is evident that the three villages' donations (Donnington, Apuldrum and Merston), although varying slightly, are fairly even, but still show a significant drop during 1918. The three towns/districts (Chichester, Bognor and Westbourne) donate generously during 1915, but appear to have rapid difficulty in maintaining the momentum through 1916-1918. Bognor's collections tail off the most dramatically, closely followed by Chichester's and Westbourne's, although Westbourne egg donations improve a little during 1918. Chichester and Bognor were both small towns, which may have had an effect on the means to keep hens for egg laying, but Westbourne was a collection of several small villages (see page 2 paragraph 1 above).

The populations of the three villages were all very small (Donnington's was roughly 200, according to Mrs Stella Palmer's project [236], and supported by Kelly's Post Office Directory 1911, as totalling 199 in 1901 [237]. Kelly's Post Office Directory for 1911 also notes that the population for Merston in 1901 was 121 [238]. An internet search has revealed that Chichester's population for 1914 was approximately 12 000 [239], Bognor's in 1911 was 8 142 [240] and the population of Westbourne in 1910 has been recorded as roughly 6 800 [241]. Tracking such information for Apuldrum eventually revealed that in 1901 the village's population totalled 134 [242]. It would seem, then, that egg donations from the small

rural villages – Donnington, Merston and Apuldram – maintained a modest, but regular contribution to the National Egg Collection for the duration of WW1. Perhaps the incomes for the rural groups was less than for those in the towns/Westbourne District, but the villagers were able to contribute eggs, on average per population, more constantly than the town dwellers, whatever a Mr R J Dartnall may have thought (see page 8 paragraph 4 above[243]).

The following Table (6) shows the average number of eggs per week for each location, taking into account the related population of each location.

Table 6) **Average Number of Eggs per Week Related to Each Location’s Population Per One Hundred (100) People:**

LOCATION	POPULATION	1915		1916		1917		1918	
		Av. No. of Eggs per Week:	Per 100 people	Av. No. Eggs per Week:	Per 100 people	Av. No. Eggs Per week	Per 100 people	Av. No. eggs per week:	Per 100 people
CHICHESTER	12 000	541	4.5	216	1.8	106	0.9	61	0.5
BOGNOR	08 000	802	10.0	376	4.7	150	1.9	26	0.3
WESTBOURNE	06 800	418	6.1	219	3.2	142	2.1	107	1.6
DONNINGTON	00 199	23	11.6	9	4.5	15	7.5	6	3.0
APULDRAM	00 134	30	22.4	26	19.4	32	32.9	15	11.2
MERSTON	00 121	26	21.5	28	32.1	20	16.5	11	9.1

Table 6 thus shows that the average egg donation per local population was clearly greater in the villages of Donnington, Apuldram and Merston than the towns. Chichester’s results are particularly – intriguing – given the population size (for 1914) and that the Royal Sussex Regiment Barracks were located in the northern area of Chichester. Donnington’s calculation shows modest input bearing in mind the identified population was slightly larger than its peers, namely Apuldram and Merston. Merston’s results, however, are affected by school children’s contributions, and these children, as outlined above, lived in Merston, Mundham and Hunston.

Summary:

It would seem that the collection of eggs to help the recovery of wounded soldiers (and sailors) from injury was considered important during WW1, and although the numbers of eggs donated to the cause within the South Western area of West Sussex, in Chichester, Bognor, Westbourne, Donnington, Apuldram and Merston dwindled significantly during 1917 and 1918, the local people continued to contribute as far as was possible, even when food was scarce. This review has been supported by some evaluation of the accumulated raw data, such as shown in Tables 1-5, with points of interest remarked upon, and supplemented, for those who are keen, with evaluated data in Table 6.

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