

*'The compassion and
commitment of a community at war'*

World War I Trail

About the World War I Trail

Huddersfield witnessed many extraordinary sights in World War I. From the extremes of emotion at the railway station to magnificently supported fund-raising parades and entertainments; from hotly contested Military Tribunals to the treatment of wounded soldiers at designated war hospitals, this trail takes in several fine buildings that bore witness to this unique period in the town's history.

The locations on this trail, and the related information, were selected from information researched for the book *Huddersfield in World War I*, published by the Huddersfield Rugby League: A Lasting Legacy heritage project in 2014.

Information

For more information about Discover Huddersfield or to learn more about the project and how to get involved, please get in touch through the following media:

discoverhuddersfield.com

Email: info@discoverhuddersfield.com

@discover_hudds

Discover Huddersfield



Recruitment poster for war service in the forces and at home



1 Railway Station, St George's Square
(0.0 mile)

Forward towards Lion Chambers
Turn Right into John William Street

2 Market Place
(0.2 mile)

Proceed on New Street
Left into Ramsden Street

3 Town Hall
(0.4 mile)

Right into Peel Street
Right into Princess Street
Right into Corporation Street
Right into Ramsden Street

4 Old Huddersfield Examiner Office
(0.5 mile)

Right into Peel Street
Left into Princess Street
Right into Alfred Street
Cross Ring Road at Lights
Left into Queensgate
Right into Queen Street
South

5 Thomas Broadbent
(0.8 mile)

Retrace steps to Ring Road
Right into Queensgate
Right into Page Street

6 Drill Hall (0.9 mile)

Left into University Campus
Leave campus by main entrance and cross Ring Road
Left into Queensgate

7 Hippodrome (1.0 mile)

Right into Queen Street
Forward into Cross Church Street
Left into Kirkgate
Right into Byram Street

8 Post Office (1.4 mile)

Left into Northumberland Street
Cross John William Street
Forward into St. George's Square.

9 St George's Square
(1.5 mile)

Left into Railway Street
Right into Westgate
Straight on into Trinity Street
Under Ring Road via Underpass
Forward on Trinity Street
Bear right still on Trinity Street
Right on Portland Street

10 Former Infirmary
(1.9 mile)

Cross Fitzwilliam Street
Left onto New North Road
Carry on up New North Road
Right into Cemetery Road

11 Edgerton Cemetery Main Entrance
(2.4 mile)

Retrace steps to New North Road (after visiting the Cemetery)
Cross New North Road
Forward on Cedar Avenue
Cross Mountjoy Road
Forward along tarmac path
Cross Trinity Street at pedestrian lights
Right on Trinity Street
Left at Roundabout
Enter Greenhead Park by main gates
Keep to path with Miniature Railway to your left and Café, Community Room and Toilets to right

12 Greenhead Park War Memorial
(3.0 mile)

Up to roundabout
Left into Greenhead Park
Pass tennis courts and bowling green to right, then turn left
Memorial is on the right

Key:

Pedestrian Area

Parking

One way traffic flow

World War I Trail

Discover Huddersfield offers new ways to experience this amazing Yorkshire town, through guided walks, talks and trails. See Huddersfield at its very best: grand listed buildings and small independent shops; a place for radicals from the Luddites to the Sex Pistols; birthplace of Rugby League; a town rich in creativity, stories, heritage and the odd ghostly encounter.



Motor Volunteers and official ambulances await a convoy of 100 wounded soldiers



The crossed quills, symbol of a centre of writing



7 Hippodrome

The Hippodrome Theatre (now The Zetland pub) staged regular fund-raising performances. Wounded soldiers and the wives of local territorials often received free admission. Propaganda-laden dramas and satire were staple fare. Dick Whittington needed petrol coupons to travel to London. Routinely, choruses dressed in the flags of the Allies, villains were German and heroes were British. Performances often included patriotic appeals for recruits.



8 Post Office

The Post Office distributed life-changing telegrams about the fatalities, injuries and survival of local men. Deliveries were reduced as staff joined the forces. In 1917, ex-postmaster Colonel Treble became Huddersfield's first CMG. Sorting clerk and telegraphist, Corporal Albert Squires, earned the Military Medal for maintaining contact with an aeroplane while under heavy shell fire.

9 St George's Square

Many celebratory and fund-raising processions began or ended in St George's Square. In July 1915, the RSPCA's 'War Horse Day' procession included horses in bandages, and a zebra from Halifax Zoo! 'Tank Week', launched here in February 1918, raised £2,680,899 in war fund investments. Various protest and propaganda meetings were staged here. The Motor Volunteers equipped a Lloyds Bank building as a refreshments and leisure facility for wounded soldiers.



10 Former Infirmary

The first wounded soldiers arrived 29 October 1914. The infirmary provided numerous beds, and the local Ladies' Committee sent shirts, bed jackets, dressing gowns, pillows, etc. Several private homes and nursing homes offered bed space and in October 1915 a locally funded War Hospital opened at Royds Hall, later supplemented by several smaller war hospitals around the district.

Royds Hall and field hospitals abroad had open air wards pioneered by the country's leading pathologist, German Sims Woodhead OBE, who was born and educated in Huddersfield.

11 Edgerton Cemetery Main Entrance

Most of the soldiers who died at Royds Hall are buried here. For each funeral, hundreds lined the streets to pay their respects. Few of these troops were from Huddersfield and none were further from home than Privates B Shearman and T Lawson of the 46th and 49th Canadian Regiments. They were fatally wounded in the capture of Vimy Ridge at the start of the Battle of Passchendaele (1917).



12 Greenhead Park War Memorial

Greenhead Park was the venue for recruitment meetings, parades of military equipment, inspections of local platoons, fund-raising fairs, and concerts by local and military bands. Huddersfield's main WWI Memorial was unveiled here in 1924. Local districts also have their war memorials.

1 Railway Station, St George's Square

The station witnessed many emotional wartime arrivals and departures. The first Belgian refugees arrived in September 1914. Harrowing convoys of wounded soldiers, many on stretchers, were met by motor volunteers who transported them to Military Hospitals in an assortment of vehicles. For months following the Armistice, returning servicemen were met by joyful loved ones.

2 Market Place

Various protests were staged here, including anti-conscription meetings where men burnt their call-up papers. Annual propaganda meetings commemorated the declaration of war and re-stated its aims.



3 Town Hall

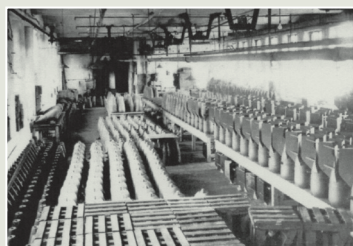
Here, in August 1914, 4000 people attended Huddersfield's first volunteers' recruitment meeting to form a new battalion of the West Riding Regiment. In February 1915 Suffragettes Annie Kenny and Mrs 'General' Drummond addressed a recruitment rally.

The Huddersfield Military Service Tribunal heard appeals against conscription, the followers of socialist conscientious objectors singing the 'The Red Flag' uproariously through the corridors. This was also the HQ for several war relief funds spearheaded by the Mayor and Mayoress.

4 Old Huddersfield Examiner Office

'Your paper is eagerly looked forward to ... it keeps us in touch with the old town.' (letter from the front, October 1915)

Reduced to just four pages owing to paper rationing, the *Examiner* promoted patriotism. It published graphic accounts from all theatres of war, including local men in suicidal attacks across No Man's Land, and a local family surviving the torpedoed *Lusitania* in 1915.



5 Thomas Broadbent

One of many local ironworks, chemical and textile factories engaged in essential war work, Broadbent's made overhead travelling cranes, steelworks for plant and centrifugal extractors for explosives. A new foundry was built to manufacture thousands of cast steel aerial bombs. Many ships at the Battle of Jutland were equipped with Broadbent's ammunition hoists.

6 Drill Hall

The Drill Hall was the barracks and depot of the 90th Territorial Force until 1917 when it became another Military Hospital, the local territorials moving to share regimental facilities in Halifax.

In autumn 1916, as German attacks on merchant shipping threatened food supplies, troops joined the 'Digging for Victory' campaign, creating an allotment on the south side of the building.