

Nomination for The Green Plaque Award.

**The Drill Hall
Asfordby Road
Melton Mowbray**



There is a greater story to tell than any one man's experience.

I believe a plaque should be placed on the Drill Hall wall to commemorate all the Boys of Melton and District who marched or rode to war in WW1 from the Drill Hall.

The Drill Hall was built in 1914 .It was from here that the boys from Melton Mowbray and District left in August 1914 for active service in France.

It was both Headquarters of "A" Squadron, Leicestershire Yeomanry and of "C" Company 1/5th Leicestershire Territorials.

"A" Squadron of the Leicestershire Yeomanry - They fought and held the line at the battle of Frezenberg Ridge on May 12-13. If they had not, there was nothing to stop the Germans entering Ypres and reaching the Channel Ports. These boys came from Melton Mowbray & District, the Rearsby Troop, Harby Troop, Melton Mowbray Troop and the Rutland Troop - only 50 were accounted for after 4 hours of bombardment and fighting off infantry assaults for another seven before reinforcements could be organised, but they held the line.

In June 1915 – A draft of 206 paraded at the Drill Hall to replace the severe casualties sustained on the 13th May.

It was also the Head Quarters of "C" Company 1/5th Leicesters - re-lettered as "B" in France. I will give you a brief extract from a battlefield journal relating to the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt October 13th 1915

Meanwhile, B. Comp. were still fighting and dying. **L/CPL. G. Underwood from Asfordby saw Drummer Bert Baguley, a former Postman from Melton, drag several men into shell holes and bind their wounds. Then standing up to help another man L/Cpl. Underwood shouted "get down Bert your gerit". The warning came too late. Underwood crawled to him but could do nothing. He was dead. One more brave T.A. man down trying to help his mates.**

There are so many of these boys, Arthur Birch was just one of them who took part in this attack, wounded with a bullet through the right lung, lay out in the barb wire for four days until rescued, as a result of his wounds he was in Wicklow Lodge Hospital. Melton Mowbray. The others went to hospitals all over England.

The Green Plaque Award would not only represent all of these boys but also everyone that came after them, not only in WW1 but also in WW2 and subsequent events around the world. They will be remembered.

The Drill Hall is still serving the young people over 100 years later and continues to convey a message of pride, duty and commitment, with the Army Cadet Force and an ATC Squadron

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