

YORK CHOCOLATE LETTERS

Contents

In this learning resource pack you will find copies of 24 documents from Explore York Libraries and Archives collection of Chocolate Letters. The letter numbers and the names of the writers are listed below.

There are many more Chocolate Letters in the collection, contact archives@exploreYork.org.uk quoting reference number Y/ADM/4/2/1 if you would like to arrange a visit to the archives to view the originals.

A5 cards

- #2 Letter from Saddler F L Adamson
- #28 Letter from Sergeant Brain
- #31 Postcard from Christopher Bridgewater
- #36 Postcard from Reginald Busby
- #37 Letter from J Butterfield
- #64 Letter from Private Dawes
- #76 Postcard from William Ellis
- #83 Letter from Fred Firth
- #87 Letter from Charles Franklin
- #95 Letter from Private Grant
- #100 Postcard from Sergeant Hall
- #187 Postcard from Arthur Smithson
- #208 Postcard from C Tickner

A4 cards

- #3 Letter from Maud Agar
- #12 Letter from Gunner Bailey
- #15 Letter from Beatrice Pew
- #43 Letter from Charles Catley
- #50 Letter from Joseph Calpin
- #99 Letter from H Gunton
- #107 Letter from Albert Heminway
- #167 Postcard from Private Pond
- #179 Postcard from George Shearman
- #196 Letter from Corporal Stockdale
- #224 Letter from Private White



What are the Chocolate Letters?

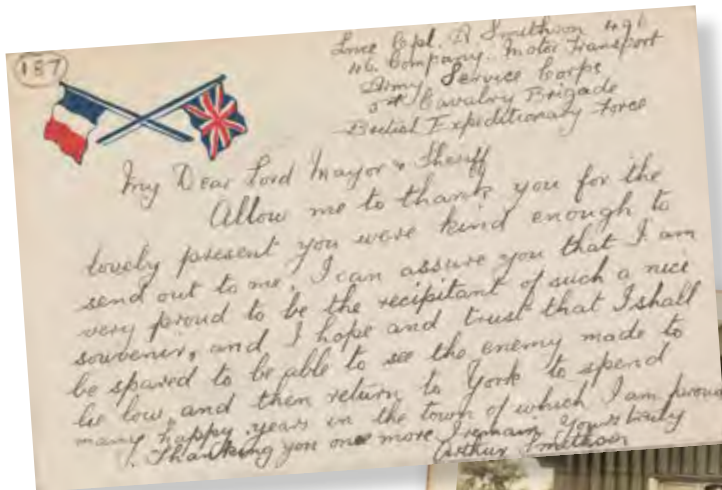
The First World War began on 28th July 1914 and lasted until 11th November 1918. Many York citizens were involved in the conflict which was one of the most devastating in our history.

This learning resource pack contains copies of 24 documents from Explore York Libraries and Archives collection of Chocolate Letters. The Chocolate Letters are a collection of 255 letters, written by York servicemen or their families to express their thanks for a gift of chocolate sent by the Lord Mayor, J B Morrell, at Christmas 1914 to all York servicemen.

The letters range from proforma field postcards and scribbled notes from the Front to longer messages sent from men stationed in Britain, in training or at sea. Even men held captive as prisoners of war wrote to express their appreciation of the gift.

Many people had believed that the war would be over by Christmas 1914, and for those still fighting, separated from family and friends, the gift of a tin containing a block of Rowntree's chocolate was a sign that they were not forgotten, and served as a reminder of home.

The gift of chocolate was organised by the Lord Mayor, John Bowes Morrell, and the Sheriff of York, Oscar Rowntree. The chocolate was contained in a specially designed tin with an inscription on the lid which ran:



The Lord Mayor of York, John Bowes Morrell and the Sheriff, Oscar F. Rowntree, send best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a bright New Year to all York men who are serving their King and Country. Christmas 1914.



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