



## First World War

This year we begin to commemorate and remember those lost and changed by the four years of human tragedy that was the First World War. The conflict touched the lives of almost every family in Britain in some way. Just as medals and letters from that time may be scattered amongst family papers, the war is reflected across many of the collections at Heritage Quay.

### University of Huddersfield Collection

Material in the institutional collection tells the story of those staff and students in the Huddersfield Technical College who served and died in the conflict. It demonstrates the efforts of other students to commemorate their classmates and how the College memorial was funded and created. Letters from relatives inform the College of the death of students and staff, and the minutes show how courses changed to meet the industrial and research needs of the country previously filled by industry elsewhere in Europe.

### Huddersfield Labour Party Collection and the Robert Blatchford Collection

The war divided opinion amongst friends as well as opponents. Despite being on the same side of the political spectrum, some parts of the Labour Party were firmly opposed to aspects of the war like conscription, and actively campaigned against it. A hero of the socialist movement, and founder of The Clarion newspaper, Robert Blatchford, surprisingly spoke out in favour of the war, and regarded it as a necessary evil.

### Rugby Football League Collection

Sportsmen were often in the best physical condition for War Service, and their professional obligations did not prevent them from being encouraged to join up. The records of the RFL held in the archives tell the history of the clubs throughout the war time period. Play continued despite enlistment stations invading the grounds, and work is now going on to research the fate of the men who volunteered for service.

Lest We Forget - what will you discover?

