

Stamford Borough Council 1915-1918

Summary of documents from the Stamford Town Council archive pertaining to WW1 1915-1918 (The summary from 1914 can be found in the Commemoration Programme research summary).

January 1915 - December 1915:

20th January:

Letter from Lincs Police Superintendent's Office to Mayor: Encloses list of people owning bicycles in the Borough. List to be forwarded to each group leader. (Attached is list – x 10 pages – of names and addresses of bicycle owners and number of bicycles they own.

11th May 2015:

Memo x 2 pages for Emergency Committees for "Arrangements for warning the Civil Population" of threatened bombardment by ships or aircraft and the warning and instructions to be given in the event of a hostile landing.

January 1916 - December 1916:

7th June 1916:

Instruction from Lord Lieutenant instructing that Special Constables are not to be enrolled as members of the Volunteer Forces for the present.

13th October 1916:

Minutes of Local Emergency Committee held at Lincoln Castle on Friday, 13th October 1916. Minutes covered difficulties likely to be experienced by the Local Emergency Committees including:

- Volunteers and Special Constables – military situation now called for volunteers rather than special constables;
- Keeping military roads clear

Undated but held in 1916 bundle:

Eight page document headed "Noted on Emergency measures – to the Chairmen and Every Member of the Local Emergency Committee of Stamford Borough. Includes:

- General
- Duties of Emergency Committees
- Live Stock and Food Stuffs
- Compensation for Property Destroyed
- Roads
- Railways
- Sounds and Signals
- Assistance by Civil Population
- Ambulance and Nurses
- Procedure on a Hostile Landing, Threatened or Actual
- Channels of Communication of Orders
- Duty after "Emergency" Special Constables
- Relief System
- Refugees
- Shepherds

- Distribution of Food
- Transport
- General Lines of Evacuation

7th August 1916:

Letter from Lincoln County Association regarding special constables.

16th August 1916:

Three page document from Home Office on “Emergency Measures in the Event of a Hostile Landing” – Revised Instructions

19th September 1916:

Instructions from 'Superintendent's Office' setting out duties of special constables.

6th November 1916:

Letter from County Constabulary calling for meeting of local emergency committees

1917:

3rd January 1917:

Letter from Police Superintendent at Stamford Police Station to the Mayor noting meeting of the Local Emergency Committee at the Town Hall on 6th January.

17th September 1917:

Instructions from Eastern Command Headquarters (50 Pall Mall, SW1) regarding changes to defence conditions previously circulated.

Undated

List (x3 pages) of “Persons willing to assist” giving name, address, occupation, where employed

No information as to what they will be assisting with.

31st October 1917:

Brief letter from Superintendent of Stamford Police Station to the Mayor noting that in future air raids lights will not be cut off at the Electricity Works but three distinct flashes will be given with the light as a warning to the public that Air Raid Action is in force.

1918:

30th March:

Letter from Superintendent to Central Committee at Lincs Police Headquarters to Secretary of Stamford Local Emergency Committee enclosing copy letter from Staff Officer for Emergency Measures, Home Forces. Notes that there will be a future meeting to discuss contents of letter from Eastern Command Headquarters relating that in some areas (east of the country) emergency measures have been allowed lapse or remain in a very complete condition. Committees are requested to revise all measures.

2nd April:

Letter from Lincs Police requesting observations of Stamford Local Emergency Committee on the sufficiency of Special Constables to carry out effectively measures appointed to them.

12th April:

Letter from Superintendent & Secretary to the Local Emergency Committee to Mayor of Stamford noting meeting of Local Emergency Committee at the Town Hall on 13th April.

May 1918:

Single page "Instructions for the Civil Population in the event of a Landing by the Enemy in this Country, an event less probable now than earlier in the War". Covers People, Transport and Tools etc. Signed by W E Martin, Mayor of Stamford.

9th November:

Circular (x2 pages) and 1 page addendum from Northern Command Headquarters, York regarding work of the local emergency committees.

18th November:

Letter from Northern Command Headquarters, York to Mayor thanking the Mayor noting that the Armistice has now been signed and noting the work of everyone during the war. Notes attached letter which was to be sent when the Armistice was signed noting that Emergency Schemes were now at an end.

There is also a bundle of papers, undated, which include the following:

- List of special constables responsible for George Hotel, Town Hall, Bowmans office, Blackstones and two others where title is not legible.
- Form 'K', No. 1(a) regarding "Removal of Motors, Vehicles, and Bicycles and the Rendering Unfit for Use Those That Cannot be Removed"
- Form 'K' No. 1(b) & (c) regarding "Removal of Horses, mules, Donkeys, Vehicles and Harness Fit for Use and the Destruction of Those That Cannot be Removed and the Handing Over to the Military Such Horses, Vehicles, Harness etc"
- Form 'K' No. 1.d. regarding Removal and Destruction of Petrol"
- Form 'K' Nos. 2&3 regarding "Collecting of Tools and Formation of Working Parties"
- Form 'K' No. 4 regarding "General Instructions to Control all Traffic and to Keep all Roads Clear", Parish Constable's Duties
- Form 'K' No.5 regarding "Posting Notices and Distributing Literature"
- Form 'K' No. 6&7, "Cycle Despatch Corps"