



"Looks like the same crowd we caught at Mareth."

Propaganda and Cartoons

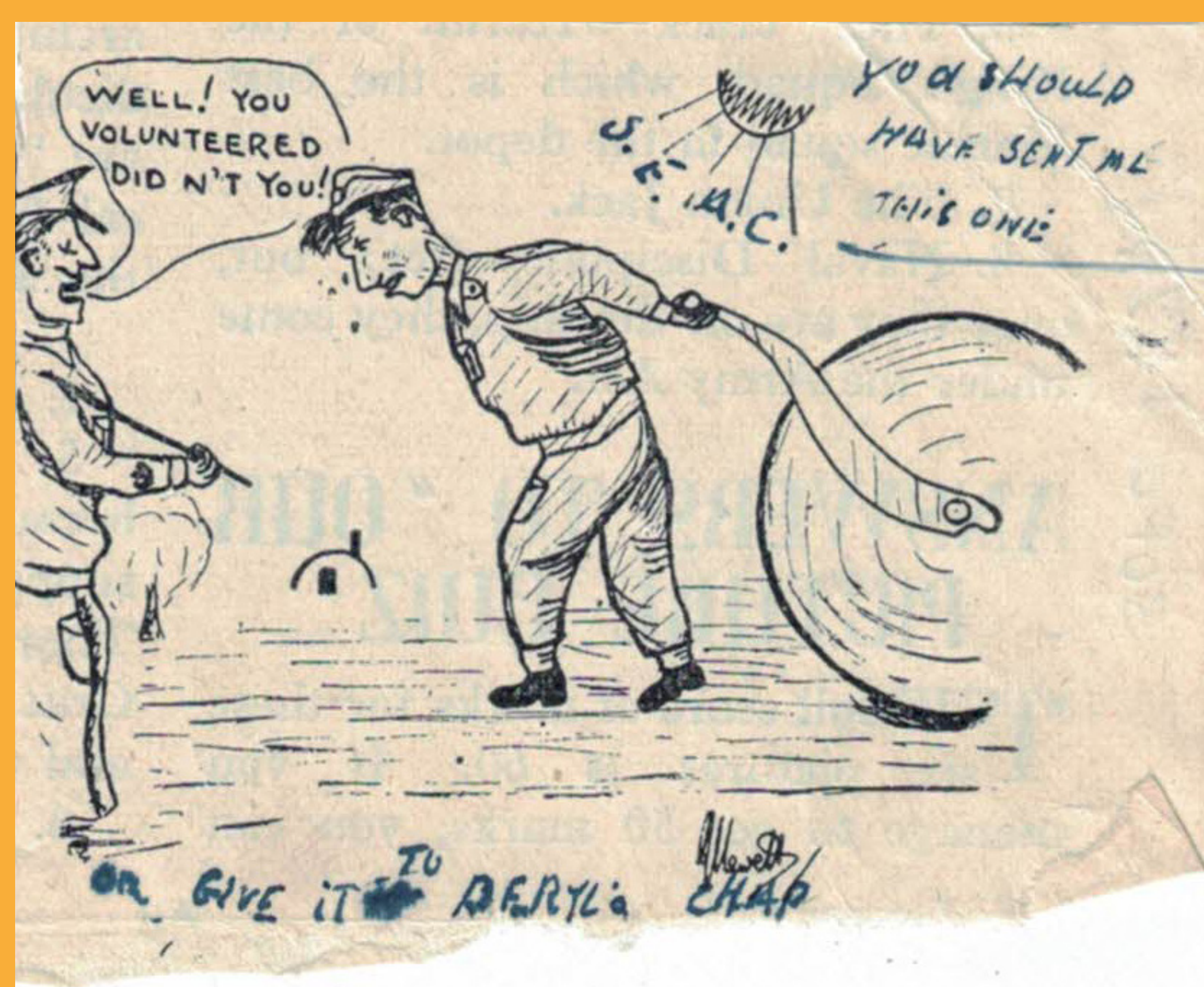
Propaganda, comics and illustrations were published by both the government and the public during both World Wars. The War Propaganda Bureau was the first government official secret propaganda organisation, and was created in response to the work of the Propaganda Agency in Germany during the First World War. Writers and newspaper editors were gathered at Wellington House in London to produce newspapers, cartoons and books which presented Britain's war effort to the public in a good light. It was later replaced by the Ministry of Information (MOI) in 1918.

During the Second World War, the MOI became the major publisher of propaganda in Britain. Some wartime posters were made intentionally humorous to appeal to children. Two commonly featured characters were Potato Pete and Doctor Carrot, which were created specifically to promote the high nutritional value of potatoes and carrots during the period of food rationing. Propaganda was not only created to target civilians, but was also designed for the soldiers abroad to encourage the fight against the enemy. As well as newspaper segments and posters, the MOI published illustrated magazines, produced films and developed radio broadcasts. The MOI was also responsible for news and press censorship.

Whilst the government published propaganda to sustain the morale of the public and bring people together in supporting the war, there were also members of the public creating propaganda. These comics and illustrations designed by civilians did not always see the war in the most favourable way, and many made fun of the army or criticised the government. Cartoonists often used humorous illustrations to express their views and political comments during the war, using their art as a means to communicate what they may not have been able to say in public.



A newspaper cartoon published in the Second World War.



A humorous military cartoon found in the letters sent from Private Cyril Caulwell to his wife Alice in 1945.