



Supporting the Soldiers

Away from the fighting, supporting the war effort became the responsibility of civilians. Many people at home wanted to give their support to soldiers who were taking part in the war. At the start of the First World War in 1914, Princess Mary created the “Sailors & Soldiers Christmas Fund”. The money raised in this campaign went towards providing every soldier in the British Armed Forces with a Princess Mary Gift Fund Box on Christmas Day 1914. These boxes contained a variety of items such as tobacco and chocolate, and always held a

small Christmas note from King George V and Queen Consort Mary. Children donated their pocket money to different charities and associations to help injured servicemen and animals. In the Second World War, well known singers and entertainers joined organisations which arranged performances wherever the Allied soldiers were billeted. Elsewhere, groups of conscientious objectors who did not support the war were chastised and made to feel like cowards. Everyone in Britain was expected to support the war effort.