

BRITAIN DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY

The following official announcement was issued by the Foreign Office at 12.10am – ten minutes after the time had elapsed for Germany's answering the ultimatum sent to her on Tuesday morning: - "Owing to the summary rejection by the German Government of the request made by his Majesty's Government for the assurance that the neutrality of Belgium will be respected, His Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin has received his passports. His Majesty's Government have declared to the German Government that a state of war exists between Great Britain and Germany as from 11 pm on August 4th". Britain is thus in line with Russia and France, and naval mobilisation was completed with remarkable rapidity. The fleets are now at sea, and several minor incidents have been reported.

King George has addressed the following to Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, in command:- "At this grave moment in our national history I send to you, and through you to the officers and men of the Fleets of which you have assumed command, the assurances of my confidence that under your direction, they will revive and renew the old glories of the Royal Navy, and prove once again the sure shield of Britain and her Empire in the hour of trial."

KELSO

Great excitement has prevailed in the town of Kelso since the declaration of war, and large crowds have awaited the arrival of the evening papers nightly, these being at once eagerly scanned for the latest details of the struggle. A fine spirit is being universally manifested.

The local members of the Lothian and Border Horse left the town on Wednesday, and a considerable number of motor men left yesterday to be in readiness for Government service.



The Kelso detachment of Territorials were inspected in the Corn Exchange yesterday morning by Capt. W. T. Forrest and this morning they leave for Galashiels, their ultimate destination being as yet unknown. Home service, however, is all that is being asked for them.

As in other Border towns, many of the employers of labour in Kelso have been put to considerable inconvenience owing to shortage of supplies, while others are handicapped by the general mobilisation order, robbing them of several of their men and in many cases, where motors are used in the delivery of goods, the requisition of the motor men by the Government has raised a difficulty which will not easily be overcome.

The members of the National Reserve resident in Kelso and district paraded in the Corn Exchange last night, a large crowd lining the street to watch them assemble. The men were suitably addressed by Hon Major Crichton Smith and by Sir Richard J. Waldie Griffith. Captain Tulloch, Tanachie, Melrose was also present.

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