

87

---

**FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
DECLARATION OF WAR.**

Monday, August 5th, 1918.

---

**FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR**

# Annual Inspection of The Territorial Force

BY

His Excellency W. Hart-Bennett, Esquire, C. M. G.,  
Governor and Commander-in-Chief,

AND THE

Commemoration at Belize of the  
Fourth Anniversary of the  
Declaration of War.

Monday, August 5th, 1918.

---

---

*Reprinted from the CLARION of the 8th. August, 1918.*

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR

# The Fourth Anniversary Of The War.

Justum et tenacem propositi virum  
Non civium ardor prava jubentium,  
Non vultus instantis tyranni,  
Mente quatit solida.

HORACE.

---

**H**OW time flies! It seems but yesterday that we, in this far away and almost unknown corner of the greatest Empire that has ever been, learned with surprise that the European peace, so long maintained, had been broken and that our country was at war.

It was difficult at first to realise this fact—Great Britain at war! Her army on the Continent! It seemed impossible.

When the fact was at last grasped speculation as to how it would effect the Colony—if at all—was rife. It was generally conceded that we were too far away to feel much of its effects and then, the question discussed was how can we help? It wouldn't last long, we thought, and by the time we could send men, if allowed to do so, it would be all over.

Soon came the news of disaster. Anxious weeks of waiting for news. At that time we had no wireless. The news did not become more hopeful—Paris was threatened; possibly England might be invaded. Our army, which we had hitherto deemed invincible, seemed as if it would be swallowed up by the Hun war machine, perfected after years of preparation.

The tide turned and we learned with satisfaction that the Huns had been driven back—Paris was safe—the fear of invasion was removed.

When we read of the heroism displayed by all ranks,

though our hearts were saddened by the terrible losses we had sustained, our bosoms swelled with pride at the thought that we were part and parcel of a nation that could produce such heroes. And as the war has dragged its weary length of four years each day gives fresh evidence that the stock of heroic characters is by no means exhausted. So many great deeds have been done for England during this war that no single book could contain them. Where every moment has had its deed and every deed its hero, a recital of acts of valour becomes a mere catalogue.

After the German retreat to the Marne we felt that though the struggle might be long and difficult, ultimate victory must crown our arms and whilst during the intervening years we have had much to try our faith it has never wavered, even, at times when—as for instance during the past four months — the fate of the civilized world seemed to tremble in the balance. The constant courage and devotion of our men at the front, the deathless fame they had won inspired us to believe that they would ultimately win. They had faith, why should we doubt? They could not be moved from their settled purpose of defeating the Hun, even though their misdirected fellow citizens—of the Pacifist order—would have them end the fight and accept an inconclusive peace, or though the Kaiser and his hordes sought by force of arms to impose his will upon them. Glorious British Army and Navy! Happy the Empire that has such sons.

And so we enter upon the fifth year of war with faith unshaken in the ultimate end, and with daily growing and unmistakable evidence of the turning of the long lane which leads to victory.

As each anniversary has come round the people of the town have assembled together and expressed the determination to support the mother country in her efforts for victory. At the first gathering we passed a resolution offering to send men. Previous to this similar offers had been refused, but in spite of this refusal several of our young men, at their own cost, went over and joined up and two of these died gloriously fighting for England—L. Coporal Hubert Usher and Pte Norris Anderson—whilst a third, Pte. James Masson, has been reported missing.

4

Our offer of men was, much to our joy, accepted and a force of over 100 men under Capt (then Lieut) Furness was despatched to England. These men made so a good an impression that more men were asked for and a Second Contingent of over 400 men was sent. We have had much satisfactory news of the doings of these men, and whilst they have not been permitted to do much fighting there work has called forth commendations from their superiors.

So far as our means have permitted we have contributed of our substance to aid the various funds for assisting our soldiers and sailors; and yet how little have we done to show our loyalty. Not be it understood from any lack of that quality but simply because the occasion has not offered itself.

There is one way in which every eligible man can prove his loyalty and that is by joining the Territorial Force now and avoid the necessity of putting in force the Conscription Law, which was passed by the Legislative Council on Tuesday. The machinery is there to enforce your service—you say you are loyal—then come out like men and volunteer. After listening to the speeches delivered on Monday at the Barracks, how can you hold back?

We have witnessed many impressive gatherings in Belize, but there seemed to be something specially attractive in that of Monday last, when the townsfolk, military and civil, merchant and clerk, employer and labourer, repaired to the Newtown Barracks to register their determination to do what lay in their power to bring this world-war to a successful and victorious close.

The military element was well represented—footmen, horsemen and gunners—and they looked as fit as possible. The Force was drawn up in line opposite and facing the Polo Club, and certainly made a formidable array.

On the verandah of that Club were gathered ladies and gentlemen representing all classes of the community, whilst each of the buildings overlooking the parade ground and on the green and roadway adjacent were large numbers of the townsfolk.

Punctually at 5.30 p.m. the motor car with His Excellency W. Hart-Bennett, C. M. G., our Governor and Commander-in-Chief, attended by his A. D. C., Lt. Blogg, and accompanied by Miss Hart-Bennett, arrived. Miss Hart-Bennett was conducted to a seat on the verandah from which cogn of vantage she viewed the proceedings with evident interest.

As His Excellency approached the Saluting Base the men smartly presented arms and the band played the National Anthem.

The ground to the west of the parade ground was lined by Boy Scouts and members of the Wesleyan Boys Brigade, and they conformed to the movement of arms of the Terriers. In front of these were grouped a number of veterans and men who

had rendered service to the Empire either within the Colony or abroad. Officers on the staff made a good showing and next to them were a number of specially invited persons. Among these were His Honor Sir Robert Roden, Chief Justice, His Lordship Bishop Hopkins, S. J. the Revd. J. B. Brindley, Chairman of the Wesleyan Mission, the Venerable Archdeacon Murray, D. D., the Honble. H. I. Perkins, I. S. O. the Honble J. M. Rosado, M. E. C. the Honble A. R. Usher, Vice-Consul for France M. B. E., Chairman of the Town Board, Mr. A. E. Morlan, Consul for Belgium, Mr. W. L. Avery, Consul for the United States, Mr. V. L. Bryant, Consul-General for Guatemala, Mr. Julio Bouloy, Consul for Honduras, Mr. C. R. Beattie, Manager of the Royal Bank of Canada, Mr. C. W. Vernon, Member of the Town Board, Mr. H. W. Beaumont, Acting Colonial Postmaster, the Editor of the CLARION and others.

His Excellency accompanied by Col. Cran O. B. E. Majors Johnson, D. S., O. and Elphinstone, and Lt. Blogg, A. D. C., passed down the lines and inspected the Force, the band in the meanwhile playing a slow march.

The Inspection over the Governor and party returned to the Saluting Base and the ceremonial prescribed for such occasions was gone through.

The various formations were all exceedingly smartly done, the men moving with a precision we have never seen equalled in Belize. The pretty, though somewhat difficult, wheel in columns of fours was well nigh perfect, and the march past in column left little to be desired. We had never before seen so large a Force of Terriers on parade, and judging from our past experience we were on the look out for the men who didn't attend parade as regularly as they should and who usually manage to throw the line out in consequence of want of practice. We were pleasantly disappointed at not being able to spot any such men. To our mind the best test of marching was the Advance by the centre which was exceedingly well done. The long line presented an unbroken, unwavering front and it led us to hope that these men, if called upon to defend the Colony, would present the same unbroken front to the foe and so maintain the pace set them by their brothers in arms on all the fighting fronts abroad.

The march past by the Mounted men was very good indeed. It is by no means easy to get a number of horses of varying size and pedigree to keep a straight line, but this was accomplished and accomplished well.

The Band, too, seemed to excel itself. The Territorial Band, thanks to Lieut. Fuller, has long enjoyed a reputation for good music, but on Monday it went one better than usual.

The review over, hollow square was formed, and the second part

of the programme commenced. His Excellency the Governor, followed by the staff and the gentlemen at the saluting base found places on the Club verandah.

His Honor Sir Robert Roden had been entrusted with the moving of the Resolution, and right well did he acquit himself of the task. It is probable that his words did not reach all of the vast assembly, and we regret that in reproducing his remarks in cold print we cannot at the same time reproduce the admirable manner in which his words were presented. We who were privileged to hear the speech could not refrain from at once offering our sincere congratulations to His Honor on the spot. We give the words but they lack the fire, enthusiasm and eloquence of the speaker:—

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To me has been given the honour of moving to-day the Resolution expressing our determination of continuing the War to a victorious end.

This terrible struggle with the awful miseries which it entails has lasted for four long years, and we are now entering on the 5th, since England and Germany declared war upon each other.

I remember the night when we knew a European War was a certainty.

I was dining with some other officials at the house of the Principal Medical Officer of a West Indian Island. About 8.30 I was told I was wanted at the telephone. To this day I do not know who spoke, but without any preliminary words someone said "Germany has declared war on Russia." I need not say we had no more dinner. Captain Henderson, Staff Officer, since killed in Mesopotamia, was one of the party. We decided that England would be forced to take part in the struggle, and Henderson said "France will be in it on Russia's side—and Germany will probably invade Belgium—if so our troops should be in Belgium as soon as possible." We know now how true his forecast was and how the scrap of paper was torn up by Germany.

Since then we have had times of hope when we and our Allies have been successful—times of almost despair when the German Army was at the very gates of Paris.

To day, thank God, we are engaged, in company with our brave Allies, in forcing the enemy back on the soil of France which he has invaded, and together with the French, Americans, and Belgians, are recovering ground lost in the great German offensive of the early part of last month.

We are being eminently successful also in Mesopotamia and Palestine.

The Italians are much more than holding their own against

the Austrians.

When I speak of the "awful miseries" we have to endure I mean national, as well as personal ones. Personal ones when we have to suffer the loss of a dear relative or friend in the fighting lines; national ones, caused by the atrocities of the unspeakable Hun by acts of piracy and murder such as, by the destruction of our passenger ships the "Lusitania," the "Sussex," &c., and our hospital ships such as the "Portugal," the "Donegal," the "Gloucester Castle" and others.

By the murders of Miss Cavell and Captain Fryatt.

The inhuman use of such agencies of destruction as liquid fire, gases, poisoned wells and microbes.

Surely these things shall not go unavenged

The list of horrors is too long for me to mention more than a few of them in moving this Resolution, and I do even that only to prove how absolutely necessary it is that the war be continued until we are victorious, for victory to us simply means the continuance of civilization.

In the words of President Wilson: "We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind, and shall be satisfied when those rights are as secure as fact and the freedom of nations can make them."

We want the peace that will establish the community of nations, and will create a new world, a better world than that in which the will of a single man was sufficient to plunge humanity into this unprecedented catastrophe.

We struggle to deliver the world from the standing menace of aggressive militarism, and against Pan Germanism. "Germany is still convinced that she is the centre of God's plans for the world."

We must be as intensely patriotic as it is possible for us to be.

The best kind of patriotism is possessed by the man who joins up—joins the regular army fighting in the field, or joins the Territorials to protect the home land.

Those of us who cannot do either of these, can do the next best thing: give of our money to war funds, or war charities—and this we should do without stint, and be happy that we are able to do it.

This is also patriotism, but what we call in law "secondary" or second-class patriotism.

There is *another* kind which *impels* one to join one or other of these classes:—I allude to pure love of native country.

A lady I know of went to South Africa from England on account of her health. She pined dreadfully during the few months she was away, and on reaching Southampton, on return, dropped on her knees, and kissed the ground saying, "Dear old England."

Those of us who know what Southampton Docks are like in Winter will allow her the patriotism, and we can only hope she by chance



found a clean spot.

This Colony has proved her patriotism most substantially:—both in subscribing money for the War Charity Funds and in supplying men for the British Honduras Contingents, the members of which are serving His Majesty with the fighting forces everywhere and doing good work wherever they are stationed.

Over 500 of them joined the two contingents and left for Europe and elsewhere (the actual number is I believe, 539) and about 1000 more are actually enrolled for possible home service.

The numbers will be materially increased by next year. Some of these are on the Parade ground to-day under the energetic, painstaking and popular Colonel Cran and his gallant officers, and are delighting us with their smart and soldierly appearance.

Although our successes just now seem to bring the longed for time of peace nearer, at present there is reason for us to strain every nerve, and with men, munitions, money and everything else that may tend to bring us success fight and fight until victory is ours.

God is on our side—the side of Right and Justice.

**WE MUST WIN** and may complete victory come soon.

I beg now Sir to move the following resolution:—

#### RESOLUTION.

“That on this the fourth Anniversary of the declaration of a righteous War this meeting of the Citizens of Belize records the inflexible determination of the Colony to continue to a victorious end the struggle in maintenance of those ideals of Liberty and Justice which are the common and sacred cause of the Allies.”

The Honble A. R. Usher, M. B. E., Chairman of the Town Board seconded the Resolution. Mr. Usher is an earnest speaker and sought to impress his hearers with the importance to them all of the Resolution he was seconding. It was fitting that the Resolution should have been entrusted to the hands of two men whose lives and interests are so much bound up in Britain's West Indian Empire, and, in the case of Mr. Usher, a descendant of one of those heroes, who, at the Battle of St. George's Cay, gave this fair province of British Honduras to the Empire.

Your Excellency and Fellow Citizens,

I have been asked to second the resolution which you have just heard read and I am glad of the opportunity of doing so.

By this resolution the people of Belize are pledging themselves and the Colony to assist the Mother Country and her Allies to continue the War until victory is attained, and I am now asking and appealing to you all to do your utmost to assist, and by all the means in your power, to carry out this pledge.

Every man, woman, and child can do something to assist, either

by joining the Territorial Force, by the production of Mahogany and Foodstuffs, by subscribing to the Red Cross Fund or by making Comfort Bags for the men at the front, and there are also many other ways by which you can all do your part, in getting the detestable Huns beaten, as beaten I am sure they will be in the end, although it may take some time.

My Fellow Citizens, I am confident of your loyalty and have no doubt that you only want to be given a lead when you will respond heartily and cheerfully and do whatever you are called upon to do to assist in attaining the end in view. The Colony I am sure will not be found wanting.

We are all tired of the War and anxious for the peace but from what I have read it appears there can be no peace until the Central Powers are beaten—this will mean that more sacrifices will have to be made but I think you will be prepared for the worst whatever it may be.

This Colony has done as much already as any of the other West Indian Colonies by sending our Contingents to the front and otherwise, and I have no doubt and sincerely hope that you will get your reward.

I have recently received a letter from one of the Members of the 2nd Contingent at the front—written somewhere in Palestine—and I will read you an extract which might be interesting:—‘I know you have, and are still doing your best to alleviate the feelings of the Boys out here in both Battalions and the work done by your Committee is appreciated yet there are a lot still left undone—probably through no fault of your Committee—we feel that we are forgotten by those who should remember us—also can interest not be taken to ascertain why we can not get letters neither papers from home. Many of the boys write their people regularly but alas months goes and come with no loving messages from those across the Seas.

“It is heartrending and only one on Active Service know the feeling of dissapointment of this nature, anyhow, can it be suggested that something be done in the matter of requesting families who have soldier sons or other relatives out here to write a little more oftener.

“Soon again we will be face to face with death and we feel only that we are about to make a journey into the undiscovered land—we remember only that we are from Honduras and that we are out to meet death and it behoves us to meet it as Honduraneans because your eyes are watching us.”

This letter shows that some of our men are not hearing from home as often as they would like, probably through no fault of anyone, but I would like to take this opportunity of appealing to all who are interested in the men at the front to write as often as possible.

I will now read the resolution to you again which I have much pleasure in seconding.

inspiring in the thought that, at this time, millions of British subjects all over our beloved Empire, and in many Foreign Countries too, are attending Meetings like this with one common great thought and that is "Let us help all we can to win the war." Surely it must be an encouragement to our splendid soldiers and sailors in their glorious fight for Freedom, and to our Civilians engaged in War work to know that the whole Empire is at their back? The idea is the same as that which animated the late Lord Meath in times of Peace when he instituted "Empire Day" as a memorial of the Great Queen Victoria, and none who has watched the effect of that movement, particularly in the Dominions and Colonies, can have any doubts as to its good results.

It is not, however, enough for us to pass this Resolution and to go away contented and careless. If we mean what we say when *we* pass it we must logically ask ourselves the question—"What can we do to secure success to our Arms?" For what we can do—and more—it is our duty and our privilege to do. Well, Mr. Usher told you and I can only endorse what he said, first, many men can join the Territorial Force without putting the Government to the trouble of compelling them to join, although I fear that it is not likely that any words of mine to-day will stir up to their duty men who ought to have enlisted after the recent great Recruiting Meeting over which the Seconder of this Resolution so ably presided. As a new-comer, it is incomprehensible to me that there should be any "slackers" in this Colony. We should be proud to be able to defend ourselves in case of raid or invasion without having to invoke the aid of the Mother Country in her days of storm and stress—but, apart from that, the Recruit obtains very distinct advantages at a very small expenditure of time and trouble. He gets drill, discipline, exercise, shooting, (and to shoot a Hun, if he gets the chance, ought to be his greatest ambition)—and recreation, He will be all the better and all the healthier a man if he joins the Force and, in addition, if he has the right spirit, his breast will swell with pride if ever he has the opportunity to put to the test the knowledge he has gained as a Territorial. That is one way in which some can help the War. Another is to contribute more than you think you can afford to the Red Cross or other War Charities—(but this year the Red Cross should come first)—and, in this connection, I congratulate the Hon. L. R. Grant on the success of his campaign and on his choice of the Motto—"Give till it hurts. Others have given till they died." A third way—for the women—is to provide, by their deft handiwork, for the comfort of our soldiers in Hospital—and, God bless them, they are doing that here as they are doing it everywhere. One of the most splendid results of the War is the magnificent and united efforts of the women of the British Empire

and of the Allies to relieve suffering—(many of them undergoing privations themselves which we men hardly dream of)—and to see that our wounded warriors are provided with all possible comforts. The boys and girls too can help. Some boys can become Scouts and, by and bye, will be Members of the Territorial Force and Soldiers of the King. Some girls can use their needles for The Cause. All can learn—and the School Teachers should make it their duty to tell them—what the war means, what the Flag means, what The Empire means. And all can subscribe a little—no matter how little—to the Red Cross. Another way in which British Honduras can help the War is by growing more ground crops so as to render the Colony independent of our great Ally—the United States of America. When travelling about the Districts I am never tired—although I daresay my audiences have been tired of hearing me—of telling the people how important this is and of impressing on them how unreasonable it is to expect that America—with her millions to feed at the Front and her millions to feed at home—will be willing much longer to supply a Colony which is quite well able to satisfy most of its needs from within its own borders.

So it seems that there many ways in which those of us who cannot, for some reason or other, serve on the fighting Fronts can use their energies, their time, or their money to attain the one and only object which is worth trying for to-day and that is—Victory for The Allies—which means universal Freedom as against the Military Despotism of the so-called Central Powers—which means the security and integrity of the small Nations which means the Defeat of Barbarism by Civilization.

Sir Robert Roden has admirably put before you the objects of this Resolution, Mr. Usher has ably seconded His Honor. It only remains for me to ask if you will adopt it.

If you do so, I shall ask the Territorial Force and the people here assembled to signify their assent by giving three hearty Cheers for "The British Empire and The Allies."

On his Excellency's call for cheers for the Empire and her Allies, the Force removed head dresses and, led by the Governor, they and all present joined most heartily in the cheering.

This brought a very impressive ceremony to a close. Only when one watched the people leaving for town could it be realized how large a number had attended the function. It reminded one of some function in pre-war days of a lighter and brighter nature. Let us hope that those happy days are now within a measurable distance of restoration—that the recent victories of our armies in France are but the beginning of the end, and that before the close of 1918 the detested Hun will have been forced to his knees and made to sue for peace—such a peace as the Allies alone shall dictate.



Printed at the CLARION Press.

---

---

# List of Members

9

NAME	ADDRESS
Alliance Assurance Co., Ltd.	London
Anderson, H. D.	Belize
Ayuso, Gregorio	Guinea Grass
Beattie, Chas. R.	Belize
Belize Estate & Produce Co., Ltd.	"
Bishop, Alfred R.	"
Blanco, B. C. O.	Stann Creek
Bourne, W. N.	Punta Gorda
Bowman, W. A. J.	Stann Creek
Bradley, A. F.	Belize
Bradley, John A.	Northern River
Braithwaite, S.	Seven Hills
Bryant, V. L.	Belize
Burgos, A.	"
Carrillo & Sons, J. E.	"
Craik, Jas.	"
Cuthbert, Sydney	"
Dragten, Frans R.	"
Easton, Alfred N.	"
Evans, D. B.	"
Foote, Fk.	"
Franco, J. J.	"
Franklin, E. W. L.	"
Fraser, Duncan	"
Gaynair, Michael A.	"
Grabham, G. E.	"
Grant, L. R.	"
Hofius, Ernest J.	"
Heitler, H.	"
Habet & Sabala	El Cayo
Hofius & Hildebrandt	Belize
Hood, Walter	"
Johnston, Eddie E.	"
Jones, Edwin	Vancouver B. C.
Krug & Co.	Belize
Kuylen, Val.	Stann Creek
Lester, Jos. S.	Punta Gorda
Lewis, R.	Belize
Lind, W. A.	"

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR

TRINIDAD