

CATERERS
STORES

CATER. STOFFELL & FORTT LTD.



Bullets or Biscuits? The impact of World War One on Cater, Stoffell and Fortt Ltd

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By the outbreak of the Great War, the company of Cater, Stoffell & Fortt Ltd had become a significant part of the lives of the genteel and the gentry in Bath and Bristol. With an unrivalled reputation for quality, variety and service, the company operated grocery stores, restaurants and wine vaults in Bath's Milsom Street, High Street, Westgate Street, Southgate Street and Margaret's Buildings. In Bristol, there were two premises in Queen's Road and one in Regent Street, Clifton. The company also operated an outside catering service and provided confectionery to customers across the nation by mail order.¹

However, the Great War was like no other which had preceded it, and had an increasingly serious impact on what came to be known as the Home Front. The advent of Total War resulted in mass conscription, diversion of resources to munitions and weapons production, and food shortages caused by the German submarine campaign. Furthermore, shelling of coastal towns by the German navy and bombing raids by Zeppelins and Gotha bombers later in the war, though causing limited damage, were a significant shock to the home population's morale. No-one would pretend that the suffering and privations felt by civilians were in any way comparable to the miserable experience of those in the trenches, but the war came to affect every aspect of civilian life, and its impact on the activities of Cater, Stoffell & Fortt Ltd can help to demonstrate this.

The company's initial response to the outbreak of hostilities was to conduct a policy of 'business as usual.' After a year in which sales had been the highest on record, the half-yearly dividend notice in September 1914 tried to strike an optimistic note:

It is particularly gratifying to us to be able to pay you this dividend on its due date, and we have no doubt it will be very welcome to our shareholders in this critical financial crisis. The outlook through the terrible war is not very assuring, but we hope it will not be a long war, and that the country will soon be able to settle down to the ordinary course of business. We would remind the shareholders that they can do much to help us in maintaining our dividend by dealing here, and recommending their friends to the Stores in which they are interested.²

However, this optimism became untenable as the war progressed. The difficulties encountered by the company fell into two categories: manpower losses and shortages of supplies.

Britain's army was small compared with those of other European powers, but highly professional. It was underpinned by a network of Territorials, Yeomanry and Reservists, and these were the first to be called up. A wide range of Bath employers was affected: many men at the Electricity Works, Post Office and City Police Force bade farewell to their comrades and boarded trains to join their regiments. Their numbers were soon swelled by volunteers responding to recruiting rallies, Mobile Recruiting Offices and the patriotic appeals of hastily-formed organisations. All in all, 'in the first five weeks of the war, about 900 men

fig 1: Carter, Stoffell & Fortt LTD. **Bath in Time - Bath Central Library**

from Bath joined the regular army with another thousand signing up for the 4th Somersets or other territorial regiments.³

Cater, Stoffell & Fortt was not immune from this patriotic exodus, experiencing a significant loss of manpower at all levels. The minutes of the company board meeting held on 29th December 1914 recorded that 'about 30 members of the staff had joined the Colours in addition to Mr W G Fortt and Mr Noel H Fortt who had been sent with their Regiments to India'. William and Noel were the youngest sons of Frederick William Fortt who, together with Richard Cater and William Stoffell, had brought his Milsom Street restaurant and catering business into the amalgamated company in 1890. The brothers held key managerial positions in the firm and their departure was to cause difficulties which eventually resulted in the abandonment of some of the company's premises.



fig 2: William Gordon and Noel Hubert Fortt (from the Fortt family private collection)

These difficulties were first referred to at the same board meeting when the chairman of the company, William Stoffell, informed his colleagues that:

he was considering, and would bring before the Directors again at a suitable opportunity, the question of closing the business in Westgate Street and the business in Regent Street, Clifton. More light would be thrown on the position of these businesses when the departmental accounts were in his hands.

Subsequently, at a licensing hearing in Bristol on 6th March 1916 an application was made to transfer the licence from the Regent Street premises to Queen's Road because the licence 'was held by Mr Noel Hubert Fortt, who was now serving in the Army. In November last, largely in consequence of Mr Fortt being away, Messrs Cater, Stoffell & Fortt closed the Regent Street premises.'⁴ The shop at 16 Westgate Street, previously known as the Bath Cash Supply Company, was disposed of in 1917 and reopened in 1918 as the International Stores.

FORTT'S RESTAURANT. (Cater, Stoffell & Fortt, Ltd., Proprietors.)

Cooks,
Confectioners,
Caterers and
Pastry Cooks.

Wine & Spirit
Merchants.



Manufacturers of
FORTT & SON'S
FAMOUS
BATH
OLIVER
BISCUITS,
and the
ORIGINAL
BATH
BUNS.

TURTLE SOUP and CALF'S FOOT JELLY specially prepared for Invalids.

16, REGENT STREET, CLIFTON, AND AT BATH.

fig 3: Fortt's Restaurant, Regent Street, Clifton.

The loss of male employees to the army had a more immediate effect. As early as 10th December 1914, Cater's was obliged to publish the following advertisement:⁵

CATER, STOFFELL & FORTT, Ltd.

TO OUR COUNTRY CUSTOMERS.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Owing to many of our Staff having Joined the Army we find it necessary to

Close Our Various Stores

AT BATH, BRISTOL, & CLIFTON.

Each Day from 1.30 to 2.30,

FOR THE MID-DAY MEAL.

Orders by Post, or placed in our Letter Boxes, will receive Prompt Attention, and will be sent Carriage Paid, where we do not deliver by our own Motor Vans.

8895G

fig 4: Cater, Stoffell & Fortt Ltd Notice

By the spring of 1915, the flow of volunteers was drying up, and the toll of dead and wounded on the Western Front was inexorably rising. In an attempt to get more men into uniform, the government introduced the Derby Scheme which encouraged men to

volunteer or temporarily defer their call up. This was not as effective as had been hoped, and in 1916 the Military Service Act was passed, making practically all men between 18 and 41 liable for call up. The act provided for exemption on adjudicate on appeals made on these grounds.

Cater, Stoffell & Fortt's male employees soon began to receive their call up papers, and the firm made a number of appeals to the Bath Tribunal. This sat in the Guildhall and was usually chaired by the mayor or an alderman. At a Tribunal hearing in February 1916, Claude Stoffell, a managing director of the company and son of the chairman, asked for exemptions for the storekeeper for all groceries at their Bath establishments, and for the deputy manager of the High Street grocery department. He maintained that it would take a year to train the former's replacement if he was conscripted. He also reported that before the war the company had employed 137 males and 62 females. Despite attempting to recruit males to replace all those who had enlisted, the staff now comprised 123 males and 84 females. Nonetheless, the Tribunal allowed only a few months' exemption in both



fig 5: William Martin Stoffell (left) and his son Claude (right) (from the Stoffell family private collection)

cases, opining that the company 'must make up their minds to work a little short in the present circumstances'.⁶

A month after this appearance, a case for Claude Stoffell's own exemption came before the Tribunal.⁷ Claude was 35 years old and was apparently fit and active, being an accomplished rower and a longstanding member of the Avon Rowing Club. On the face of it he was suitable for military service but his father maintained to the Tribunal that Claude was in a reserved occupation, being a managing director of the whole company as well as manager of the High Street grocery department and the sole buyer for all the branch shops. He told the members that Claude was 'head of the business, practically. I only help. If it were 20 years ago, I should not be here appealing for him'. He added that 'a business of our character, is only next to, if it is not before, munitions making, for munitions workers cannot work if they are not fed'. One suspects that precious few munitions workers ever saw the inside of Cater, Stoffell & Fortt's premises. After some consideration the mayor

announced that the Tribunal agreed that Claude was in a reserved occupation and that he would therefore be granted a conditional certificate of exemption while he remained in his present position. However, he warned that this 'would be subject to revision by the military authorities at any time.' These were to be prophetic words.

On 23rd June 1916, the company appealed for exemptions for 10 employees at all levels, including another of the managing directors (Harold Fortt), the company secretary, departmental and branch managers, counter staff and delivery drivers.⁸ They had a smooth passage at this Tribunal since all were granted conditional or temporary exemption, subject usually to joining the SVR (Somerset Volunteer Regiment) or an ambulance unit. Major General Bradshaw CB, who was present at the Tribunal as the military authority representative, reported that 'of the firm's employees, 90 had gone to the army, 38 had been called up and of the latter only 10 had been appealed for.'⁹

Claude's case came back to the Tribunal in May 1917, presumably at the insistence of the recruiting authority.¹⁰ William Stoffell told them that by this time 165 employees had joined the Colours and two shops had been closed. At some point in the previous year, despite his apparent fitness, Claude had been found unfit for military service, though a recent re-examination had passed him for B2 (suitable for labour service abroad).

William Stoffell was unsparing in his description of the firm's problems:

Irrespective of the shortage of staff, there were many difficulties which were far more acute than a year ago, including food restrictions, increased duties, and the limitations put on liquor and petrol. His son would have gone when war broke out but for the difficulty of running a business of their character and his (Mr Stoffell's) age... if he were a younger man, he would not be there even in the present circumstances, but the last two and three-quarter years had been very trying. Would his son not be of greater service in business of their character than doing labour abroad?

Colonel Clayton, there in support of the recruiting officer, clearly did not think so. 'He felt sure that Mr Claude Stoffell would be very useful in the Army. Other men from similar businesses had made themselves exceedingly useful there in controlling contracts and things of that kind'. One can imagine Stoffell forcing a smile as he replied, 'it is very good of Colonel Clayton to make that kindly remark, but there's another side to the question. We are feeding in Bath something like 10,000 people, and it takes great care and ability to give that number of people their food. If he goes, there is only me, and I am 70 years of age'.

However, despite Stoffell's portrayal of himself as white-haired philanthropist, the Tribunal ruled against him. They refused to grant an exemption certificate though deferred Claude's call up until 31st July. This must have been quite a shock for the company, and for William Stoffell in particular. His reputation and influence in Bath was considerable, not only as the head of a highly prestigious company with many illustrious patrons, but also as a prominent member of the Bath Conservative Association, a churchwarden of Bath Abbey, a founder member of the Bath Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Spa Hotel Company and a senior freemason in the Royal Cumberland Lodge 41.

He was not a man to give up. The company took their case to a higher court, in this case the Somerset Appeals Tribunal which also sat in the Guildhall. On 22nd June 1917 William Stoffell again made the case for his son's exemption. The newspaper report of the hearing suggests that the Appeals Tribunal was rather more receptive to his arguments.¹¹

They 'felt considerable sympathy with the senior director, and they also appreciated the extent to which the men employed by the Company were now doing their part in serving their country'. But then they resorted to a bit of soft soap, saying that 'they felt that the great energy and capacity of Mr Stoffell Snr would enable him to overcome the temporary difficulties resulting from the absence of this attested man'.

William Stoffell would have none of it:

'[He] detailed his son's many duties and alluded to his low medical classification. He said two employees of the Company who were of low category were taken into the Army, and cost the country £400; one had come back to them and was doing useful work, the other was still in hospital'.

Captain Mawer, the only Army officer present, seemed, according the press report, unusually sympathetic to the appellants. He pointed out that the company:

had now eight establishments, six in Bath and two in Bristol. They had closed two in Bath alone since the war began. They could not very well close any more in Bath. This was a case that had attracted a good deal of notice in Bath and elsewhere... Of course, that would not prejudice the Tribunal. What they had to find out was whether, in the national interest, the services of Mr. Stoffell junr. were of greater value now than they would if he were employed in the Army.

Turning to Stoffell, he asked 'if his son was an industrious young man'. At once, Stoffell replied that:

He was afraid that he would not be with him if he was not. The whole of his time was devoted to the business: he had scarcely had a holiday since the war broke out. There was only one other director beside his son and himself, Mr. Harold Fortt. (who of course, had been exempted earlier).

On that ringing endorsement, the Tribunal retired to consider their decision in private. On their return the chairman announced that:

they had taken into account that Mr. Stoffell's was a very large and important business, that Mr. Stoffell had been doing more work, and extra pressure was put upon him – from information which was before them that was a serious matter; they realised the important work they had done.

He added, perhaps for the sake of appearance, that 'if it were possible for Mr. Stoffell to take on this extra work, and release his son, it would be a great thing for the country'. Nonetheless, the bottom line was that the local Tribunal would be directed to give Claude 'conditional exemption on remaining in his present occupation as managing director and buyer for a firm of general provision merchants'.

No further attempts were made to call up Claude Stoffell. Despite portraying himself to the Tribunal as a man of declining strength, William Stoffell occupied the chairman's seat for another 13 years and died in harness in 1929. Claude succeeded him and ruled the company in a similarly vigorous and occasionally autocratic way until his own death in 1960.

Turning now from manpower shortages to supply chain difficulties, the Bath

Record Office has Fortt & Son's 1917-1918 out-letter book, containing hundreds of flimsy, blurred carbon copies of correspondence. At first glance this seems little more than a mass of minutiae, dealing with recalcitrant suppliers, customers who failed to settle their accounts, and countless orders for biscuits, cakes and other fancy goods. However, a careful study reveals the stresses and strains affecting the catering and restaurant side of Cater, Stoffell & Fortt, and shows how much these were due to war conditions, restrictions and shortages.

For a firm like Cater's, which prided itself on its reputation for quality and service, failure to meet its customers' requests must have been extremely frustrating. The out-book contains many apologetic letters for an inability to supply, for example, Chocolate Olivers, macaroons, and even caramels – since the latter used too much sugar in their manufacture.

Even where the supply of cakes and biscuits had not been totally disrupted, shortages in raw materials led to a reduction in quality. Thus we find a letter to a customer dated 8th December 1917 that reads:

We regret to note that you do not find our Bath Olivers so good as usual. We are unfortunately only too well aware that they are not what they should be, but we are doing our best under very trying circumstances, and the flour is principally responsible for what they lack. We are hoping for a speedy return of the old conditions, so that we can turn them out as satisfactorily to ourselves as to our customers.

Sugar was also scarce, and the amount of dried fruit used in making fruit cakes and Christmas puddings had to be reduced. Eventually, it became unobtainable and peel had to be substituted. A customer was advised, 'With reference to cakes, we do not advise you to order these in larger quantities, as owing to the lack of fruit, they will not keep as moist as in pre-war times'.

Whisky was particularly scarce, and many customers ordering a dozen bottles had to be satisfied with one bottle only. Some were luckier; 'for old acquaintance sake' they were treated 'in as generous a manner as possible' and received a dozen bottles, though sometimes of an inferior brand. In one instance, two dozen bottles of whisky en route to a customer were lost by the Great Western Railway, who offered to compensate the firm financially. The company wrote to the customer ruefully, 'we would rather have the whisky than the money at present, as two dozen to one customer at present is absolutely out of the question'.

Perhaps most painfully, for a firm that prided itself on its much admired wedding cakes, there was a prohibition on using both almond and sugar icing, and all the company could do was to offer decorations using frills, flowers etc. to make them 'look quite nice'.¹²

The shortage situation was subject to sudden change. On 8th November 1917, the company commented in a letter that, 'up to the present, we have been able to obtain sufficient butter for our restaurant, and do not want to have to resort to substitutes of any kind. However, we can never tell and if so we shall have to do the best we can.' Barely a month later, Harold Fortt was obliged to write to a supplier in Dublin to say, 'I understand that you are supplying butter to private customers by the lb. Can you supply me with a regular quantity weekly. I should also be glad to know if you could supply me for my business here. I could take any quantity up to 1 cwt. weekly.'

In January 1918 nationwide rationing was introduced in response to the impact of the German U-boat campaign and signs of serious malnutrition in some of Britain's

poorer communities. The range of foodstuffs being rationed increased as the year went on. Sugar was immediately restricted and by the end of April meat, butter, cheese and margarine were added to the list. Ration cards were issued and everyone had to register with a butcher and grocer. Thus we find Fortt & Son writing to customers regretting that they could not supply orders for meat pies without being provided with a 'Meat Ticket.' In Bath, a Food Control Committee was set up in late 1917 which devised its own rationing system, using coupons – the first in the country to do so.¹³

In the wartime economy, an extensive bureaucracy had to be dealt with to get adequate supplies of many raw materials. Hence a letter to the Ministry of Food Control asking for a license from the Food Controller to purchase 2 sacks of malt from a Bristol brewer for use in making Bath Oliver's. A later letter contained an urgent plea to the Ministry to allow purchase of one ton each of currants and sultanas from a Liverpool importer because 'we are practically without any stock at all, and find it difficult to carry on business.'

Probably the most difficult shortage that the company had to deal with was tin. Bath Oliver biscuits had always been packed in tin containers, but supplies were now requisitioned for military use. They had experimented with cardboard packaging but this had been costly and did not properly preserve the freshness of the biscuits. The out-file contains a plea to the Ministry of Munitions, beseeching them to:

grant release of, say, 2 tons of... Tin Plate... for the purpose of manufacturing tins, for packing our famous Bath Oliver Biscuits... This biscuit is the only one of its kind – a specially fermented Biscuit – and is used mostly by invalids and persons who have to be ordered a special diet. Owing to the nature of the Biscuit it suffers more than any other biscuit from exposure to the atmosphere... we can assure you that it is only as a matter of the utmost urgency that we have been induced to apply to you on this matter. The quantities we are applying for will last some considerable time, and we trust you will be able to see your way to accede to our request.

Unfortunately, this request, like an earlier one, was refused by the Ministry and the search for an acceptable cardboard substitute continued.

By 1st January 1918, things had deteriorated to such an extent that the company was obliged to write to a number of its regular retail customers to say that:

we are not in a position to execute your order as, owing to a shortage of tins, labour etc. we are very much behind hand with our previous orders. We are therefore compelled to cancel all orders for a month, and ask you to be good enough to re-order at the end of this time.

So it was not just a shortage of tin and raw materials that was handicapping the



fig 6: The trademark of Fortt & Son's Bath Oliver Biscuits

production of Bath Olivers, but also a labour shortage, caused by conscription. A few days later, recognising that James Fortt's Manvers Street factory had been using cardboard packaging for some time, Fortt & Son bowed to the inevitable and informed customers that 'we shall be obliged after this week to use cardboard much against inclination, as we fully realise that the Bath Oliver Biscuit above all Biscuits requires to be kept perfectly airtight, or suffers tremendously'.

Fortt & Son did their best to send goods to overseas customers, despite the disruption caused by war. There is correspondence in the file in September 1917 concerning the costs of sending rich fruit cakes to India, Mesopotamia and Salonika, but any overseas despatches had to be licensed by the War Trade Department. By November the company had to inform customers that licenses would only be granted in future where goods were being sent to 'members of the British Army serving abroad.'

Even where permission was granted, the goods did not always get through, as in the case of a tin of Bath Olivers sent to a British POW in Turkey. This was returned with the unhelpful message that 'the transmission of parcels addressed to Prisoners of War in Turkey is suspended until further notice.'

One of the more bizarre instances of red tape is referred to in a letter to a farmer at Combe Hay on 4th December 1917 about his request for Fortt & Son to provide a luncheon for a timber sale. The arrangements and costs are set out in the letter, which ends:

The above price is not inclusive of drinks, and we understand that you would like Beer, Ciders, Whisky and Mineral Waters provided. These would have to be purchased before-hand under the regulations of the Defence Of The Realm Act, and, while we cannot guarantee what we could supply, owing to the difficult position that we are in, we would do our best to meet you as far as possible in this respect.

As well as responding to all these wartime problems, Harold Fortt (for it was he who signed almost all of the letters) had a range of other vexing problems to deal with. These included the Clifton Steam Laundry's treatment of employees' clothing ('really sometimes it is appalling to see the way the clothes come home from the laundry, torn most fearfully'); and the Bath Gas Company's low pressure ('we find it almost impossible to do our cooking and our boiling water machines for making tea are practically out of action half the time... a good deal of the gas is now wasted owing to our cooks lighting two or three burners under one pot in the endeavour to get a little heat').

Other irritations included a consignment of 9,000 toothpicks in wrappers printed with 'Fortt's of Milton Street;' dealing with the Surveyor of Taxes over the affairs of his brothers William and Noel who were away on active service; corresponding with

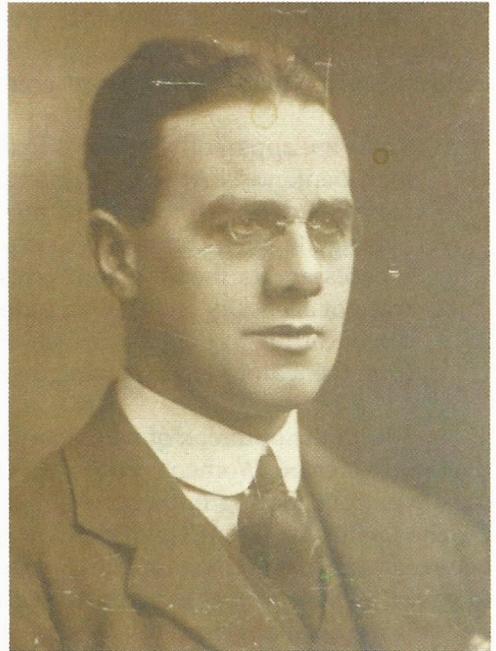


fig 7: Harold Fortt circa 1913

the Incorporated Institute of Purveyors of Light Refreshments who had erroneously recorded his name as Forth rather than Fortt; and tackling an infestation of cockroaches in the restaurant's washing-up department. At the same time he was trying to maintain a quality service to his customers, assuring a Mrs Brice of Sheffield that a boar's head could be supplied, as last year, at a cost of 50/-, though he asked for as much notice as possible.

Given all this activity, it is hardly surprising that Harold Fortt's social life suffered. Two letters make this clear. He was a celebrated and enthusiastic musical and dramatic performer, but we find him writing to a Mr. Boulton of Cirencester on 15th November 1917 to say:

I am afraid it is impossible for me to assist you in your Concert. I am so fully engaged all the time, that I really have had to give up everything except business and my Volunteer duties. I know that you will appreciate the position, and will understand that it is with great regret that I am forced to say 'no' to your kind invitation.¹⁴

A second letter, this time on Christmas Eve 1917 to Miss Drake in Edward Street, Bath, regretted that 'owing to the numerous calls upon my time, and to the high pressure at which I am at present working, I am unable to accede to your request to sing at the Roman Promenade on Wednesday, January 2nd'.

To the high work pressure was added family worries. Harold's younger brothers, William and Noel, had enlisted in the Somerset Light Infantry and were fighting overseas. There is a telling postscript in a business letter which he wrote in November 1917 to Henry Lovell Hewitt, a Trowbridge woollen manufacturer, 'We have had no letters from Palestine for the last few weeks, and are naturally rather anxious for news'.¹⁵ Fortunately both brothers survived the war and were to return to the firm in due course.

As a postscript to this article, we can examine what the company's history can tell us about the position of women in the 1914 – 1918 period. Back in March 1914, an unusual disturbance in Fortt's Milsom Street premises was reported.¹⁶

There are apparently no limits to the resources of the Suffragettes for voicing their demands... At Fortt's yesterday afternoon, when the spacious tearoom was crowded with visitors taking tea, there arose from one of the tables a Suffragette, who proceeded to explain to the astonished company that what is necessary for the salvation of this country is 'Votes for Women'. The speech was not a lengthy one. It was, indeed cut short with a suddenness which was disconcerting to the lady, for Mr. Harold Fortt escorted the still voluble lady from the tearoom to the swing doors of the shop.

With the outbreak of war, many Suffragettes ceased their campaign. Some joined the newly-created Women's Police Service (WPS), while others took part in voluntary female patrols. Both groups came about as result of Regulation 40D of the 1914 Defence Of The Realm Act (DORA) which, in an effort to combat 'khaki fever' and illicit relations between women and troops, made it a criminal offence for any woman with venereal disease to solicit or have sexual intercourse with a man. The WPS and the patrols concentrated on 'policing the behaviour of working class women, patrolling parks and public spaces, separating courting couples and moving on "dangerous" women.'¹⁷

In June 1918, a controversial protest meeting was held at Fortt's Rooms in Bristol.¹⁸

Convened by 'several women's societies and societies interested in public morals', many speeches were made attacking Regulation 40D. The meeting heard an impassioned speech from a member of the Association for Social and Moral Hygiene who claimed that 'the whole sex question should be lifted out of the mire and treated ethically... the young of both sexes should be trained to sex purity... repressive measures, especially when directed against one of the offending persons and not both, are futile.' The article ends, 'The resolution was carried without a dissentient voice.'

One final observation: we have already noted that the number of women employed by Cater, Stoffell & Fortt rose during the war as male recruits became more and more scarce. The firm continued to employ a significantly greater number of women in the post-war era, but this did not mean that they were valued or treated equally. When the company introduced a staff pension scheme in 1932, its provisions were generous. There was only one anomaly: female employees were excluded!¹⁹

Notes

1. For a comprehensive history of the company, see Andrew Hill, *Biscuits, Banquets & Bollinger* (Ex Libris Press, 2013).
2. *Bath Chronicle*, September 1914.
3. Andrew Swift, *All Roads Lead To France: Bath And The Great War* (Akeman Press, 2005), p.51
4. *Western Daily Press*, 7th March 1916.
5. *Wiltshire Gazette*, 10th December 1914.
6. *Bath Chronicle*, 26th February 1916.
7. *Bath Chronicle*, 25th March 1916.
8. Harold was the second son of Frederick William Fortt. He progressed to manage the Milsom Street business, retiring in 1953.
9. *Bath Chronicle*, 24th June 1916.
10. *Bath Chronicle*, 2nd June 1917.
11. *Bath Chronicle*, 23rd June 1917.
12. In April 1917, Lord Devonport, the Minister of Food Control, issued an order restricting the amount of sugar used in cakes and biscuits to 15 per cent and banning the production of 'ornamented cakes.'
13. For more information on food rationing in Bath, see Andrew Swift, *All Roads lead To France: Bath And The Great War*, pp.323-328.
14. Harold Fortt was a quartermaster with the temporary rank of Lieutenant with the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry (*The London Gazette*, 25th March 1920).
15. Noel Fortt's obituary mentioned that he had served in Palestine during the First World War.
16. *Bath Chronicle*, 26th March 1914.
17. Open University *The Women Police*, [Online] Available from: <http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/history-from-police-archives/Met6Kt/WomenPolice/wpWW1.html>.
18. *Western Daily Press*, 11th June 1918.
19. Andrew Hill, *Biscuits, Banquets & Bollinger*, pp.133-134.