

The Dominican Contribution to the World War 1 Effort

Compiled by Elsa Pascal

Suggested Titles

1. *To King and Motherland*
2. *Subject but Free*
3. *Loyalty - ample vindication*
4. *Builders of a state*
5. *In defence of Empire*
6. *The British West Indian Soldier - agent for change*
7. *11~11~11: A Dominican Experience in Focus*
8. *WW1 ~ Midwife of self-determination principles for the Caribbean*
9. *A Captive Empirical Nation*
10. *Dedicated to the effort*

Introduction

'Dominica is unique, not only for its towering mountains and physical rarities but historically as well...there are important features which have always made the island stand apart from the others in the Caribbean chain!' (Lennox Honeychurch, 2014, *'The Dominica Story'*, Macmillan Education, Oxford)

The Voice of Dominica reported on 6 January 1915 of *'a wonderful war now raging in Europe naturally caused very much consternation of the inhabitants of the island'* and that Dominicans were *'ever ready to do all that lie in their power to ensure victory for England and her allies'* as *'Dominica is second to none in loyalty to its King and Motherland.'*

On 06 January 1915, the mail steamer took limes from the Riviere's, Honeychurch's, Fillan's and Royer's estates to England where the hospitals were continually asking for limes from Dominica to aid in the recovery of their sick and wounded soldiers. Hospitals to which the fruits were distributed included hospitals in Oxford; St Thomas' Hospital, London; the Prince of Wales Hospital, Tottenham, North London; the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital, Greenwich, South East London; the Victoria Hospital, Chelsea, South West London; the City of London Red Cross; the Royal Infirmary, Sheffield; St Bart's Hospital, London; and the Royal Berkshire Hospital. They all expressed grateful thanks for the *'cooling draught'* of limes, oranges and grapefruit to Mr Aspinall, the Secretary of the West India Committee, who received the fruits on behalf of *'wounded and suffering troops who greatly appreciate Dominica's kindness to them.'*

The Schooner *'Golconda'* called at the following places to collect citrus fruits that would eventually be distributed to soldiers and sailors in hospitals in England: Grand Bay; Pte Mulatre; Rosalie; Castle Bruce; Pte Soufriere; Marigot; Woodford Hill; Hampstead and Blenheim. The mail steamer had earlier taken to England: 17 boxes of limes and two (2) boxes of grapefruit. These were donations from planters on the island, namely: the Lockhart, Fillan, Hill, Martin, Purdie and Potter's families as well as produce from the Botanical Gardens and St Aroment Estate.

The paper also reported that the Spandau race course in Germany was being used as a concentration camp and that some Englishmen had arrived in their automobiles '*along with negroes from British colonies*'.

On 3 February 1915 it reported that at the onset of the war, Antigua was unable to present a substantial gift of money to the Imperial Government as did the other Leeward Islands; money that was to be used for charitable or other purposes. The people of Antigua would, however, do what they could to donate by private subscriptions as they wished to show their '*intense sympathy to all sufferers by the war*'. The Council subsequently went on to present the sum of £1,000 to the Order of St John of Jerusalem '*for greater comfort of our wounded soldiers and sailors*'.

Carnival 1915

It was customary to hold a local carnival exhibition of masqueraders once a year, two days preceding Lent. Some officials felt it would be inappropriate to hold a carnival in 1915 as the Mother Country was at war but the local Council voted unanimously to continue the custom, despite the war. The masqueraders dressed up in radiant costumes that year as they paraded up and down through the Dawbiney Market. (*NB: a very interesting place, central to proceedings that took place there during the period of the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade*) The theme that ran through was the representation of the nations that were presently engaged in the war, with the exclusion of Germany and Austria. The countries that were depicted were: England, France, Russia, Belgium, Servia, Japan and neutral America. Prizes were awarded to persons who portrayed the following:

Britannia, The Allies Band and an infant in *jupe (National dress)* won two (2) prizes each and a prize each was awarded to: Belgium, Russia, Servia, Spain, Wales, America, Canada, The Red Cross band of nurses, the Naval Brigade, a Red Indian Group, The Coon, The Jester, The Oriental Prince and Princess, the West Indian soldier dressed in *Zouave* costume; a French African soldier; a French Army man; a Scotch Highlander; a Sierra Leone Regimental Unit; a Scotch Band; an infant in Japanese costume and a group of Boy Scouts.

A West Indian Regiment Preferred

In June 1915, the Home Government consented to allow contingents from the British West Indies to fight at the front; contingents from Barbados, British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad. Earlier the government had declined to accept the offer of a contingent of men from the West Indies stating that they would be best placed '*-serving their country by assisting in the defence of their own shores.*' The newspaper was adamant that as '*loyalty permeates all classes, all creeds and all races in the West Indies*', it was only right that West Indian men be allowed to enlist. Soon after 12 young men left Barbados on the *SS Crown of Granada* bound for England with the sole intention of enlisting into the British army. (*Voice of Dominica, 16 & 23 June 1915*)

A Free Empire in War – July 1915

The Rt Hon Lewis Harcourt, MP, Secretary of State for the Colonies, stated in a speech that his *none too frequent rest* had been broken with telegrams from the Caribbean islands. He was offered men, money, goods, produce and volunteers and even aeroplanes to aid the war effort. He was greatly touched by this '*equal generosity with every other part of the Empire*' that the West Indies had shown. He went on to state that war is the most terrible test that you can apply to national character and endurance and argued that although war may fail to solve some insoluble problems, '*it disposes of the idea of degeneracy and it discovers and creates character.*'

He compared it to a furnace that produces '*a flux by which the scum of dross is so thin as to be almost imperceptible and under it there flows out the pure metal to the point of*

need, of danger and of honour'. He ends on the note that to every race of whatever colour that is under the British flag, he can proudly say:

*'Your loyalty is ample vindication
Of all we claim to be,
The builders of a state wherein each nation
Though subject, still is free.'*

The response from the Legislative Council of Grenada, St Lucia and St Vincent to the Secretary of State was one of unanimous approval to the *'raising of a West Indian contingent for the front in defence of the British Empire.'* (Voice of Dominica, July 28, 1915)

Contributions

The Windward Islands sent:

£8,000 worth of cocoa
£2,000 worth of arrowroot for the forces; and
£5,000 for the Prince of Wales Fund

The Leeward Islands sent:

£6,000 for the Prince of Wales Fund
£4,000 for the Flying Corps; and
£1,200 for Belgian relief

Montserrat sent guava jelly

The Turks and Caicos Islands sent £1,000

Trinidad sent:

£40,000 worth of cocoa
£12,000 for the Prince of Wales Fund; and
£800 for the Red Cross

Jamaica sent:

Sugar, oranges, 300,000 cigarettes, and
£14,500 cash for the War Relief funds

The Bahamas sent:

£10,000 towards war costs, and
£3,000 for the Prince of Wales fund

Barbados sent:

£20,000 towards the war expenses, and
£3,000 for relief funds

British Guiana sent:

1,000 tons of sugar
500,000 lbs rice, and
\$13,000 for relief

Bermuda sent:

£10,000

British Honduras sent:

\$5,000 to the Red Cross, and nearly
\$2,000 for relief

A telegram received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies stated:

'On full consideration the Army Council are of the opinion that a single West Indian contingent should be formed in one colony. Recruits from other colonies, except possibly from Jamaica, being sent to that centre. All recruits will be accepted subject to being passed medically fit and in all respects up to standard for infantry of the line.'

(Source: *The Voice of Dominica*, 4 August 1915)

Following receipt of the telegram a Government Notice was issued with the following request:

'British subjects willing to enlist in a West Indian contingent are to send in their names to his Honour the Administrator with a statement on: (1) Place of Birth; (2) Profession or occupation, and (3) Age.'

The total thus enrolled was 65 volunteers. The following names were recorded:

Dominica

Emmanuel John Herman	
Crawford Barbarun	
Hubert Lue	
Alex Charles Patrick	
Sydney Trail	
Alban William	
Victor R H Etienne	Soufriere
James Thomas	Soufriere
Albert Morancie	Roseau
Skinner G Reid	Roseau
Rawlins Peter	Roseau (<i>returned to Dominica</i>)
Charles Ambrose	Roseau
B A Severin	Roseau
Harold R Jemmot	Roseau
James S Christian	Roseau
Donald Brown	Roseau
Joseph Michael	Roseau
George Winston	Roseau
Cyril G Butler	Roseau
James Frank	Roseau
Murray Tavernier	Roseau
Vaughan Casimir	Roseau
Joseph Charles	Roseau
Artemius Derrick	Portsmouth
M J C Andre	Point Michel
Ed S C Jones	Point Michel
N Norde	Point Michel
R J Pierre	Point Michel
H J Peltier	Point Michel
J B Dervin	Point Michel
A S Roudette	Point Michel
R Marcial	Point Michel

Anguilla

Charles Hodge

St Kitts

Carmille Watty

Augustine Mondesire

Grenada

Cyril Bascus

Montserrat

Albert Watkins (Dominica Defence Force)

Abraham Riley

Morden C Shield

Barbados

Joseph Barrett

Lewin Grazette

Demarara

J O Aird

Antigua

Joseph Knowles

Robert W Scotland

James M Peter

Charles Henry

James E John

William E Henry

William Carlisle

Christopher Joseph

Daniel A H Nicodemus

John Henry Joseph

Thomas Mannix

Reginald Archibald

James Nicholas

Solomon Andrew

Joseph Edwards

Richard Parker

Remembrance Day - 1960s

(Source: Irving W Andre and Gabriel Christian, 2008, *For King and Country*, Pont Casse Press, Toronto; ISBN: 978-0-973 7347-7-5)

Background

Armistice Day or Remembrance Day was commemorated on the anniversary of the official ending of the First World War. The armistice was signed between the Allies and Germany at Compiègne, France. The parties involved agreed to cease their hostilities towards each other to take effect at 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month; that is, 11 am on 11th November. After World War II, the name was changed in the USA to Veterans Day. The date was ruled a national holiday in order to remember the soldiers who died during the war.

In the 1960s Remembrance Day was celebrated in Roseau, Dominica at the Cenotaph, directly opposite Peebles Park and near the Bay Front, adjacent to Fort Young, now a hotel. The hills of Morne Bruce with its 60 foot cross lie in the distance overlooking the park and the town. Peebles Park is named after Captain H Peebles who was the leader of the Dominica Defence Force. He was soon promoted to Major but permission to recruit troops from the Leeward Islands was denied him. Dozens of Englishmen from Dominica, however, financed their own way to England to enlist in the war. (Source: Sir Charles Lucas, 1923, *The Empire at War*, London, Oxford University Press: quoted in *For King and Country*)

The march to Peebles Park began at the Police Headquarters on Bath Road. The Music Lovers Government Band led and throngs of people including children lined the streets, running along the route as the procession passed by. Officers of the Royal Police Force followed the band in a straight line, their white tunics freshly laundered and dazzling bright; their white pith helmets with silver spikes at the top on their heads; their rifles resting on their shoulder; and their shoes shone like mirrors that you could almost see your face on them. Behind them marched members of the Defence Force, dressed in olive green uniforms. The Dominica Grammar School cadet corps followed wearing Australian bush hats *'at perfect angles'* on their heads. Next into view came the St Mary's Academy Sea Cadet Corp wearing blue berets. The Music Lovers Band then would begin to belt out a rousing rendition of *'The Caissons Go Rolling Along'* and the drum major went quite theatrical, smartly threw his baton high, then flawlessly he caught it and twirled it around *'whilst still in full stride'*.

Some of the children running alongside would be dressed in their Sunday best. The boys wore a white long-sleeved shirt, a bow tie, a poppy pinned to their left lapel and black trousers. Their hair would be combed through so that a pencil could easily find its way through the curls; their faces well scrubbed and each would wear the biggest grin on his face. The children did enjoy the spectacle; whether or not they understood the significance of the procession, we will never know. All they were concerned about was that it was a national holiday; schools were closed; this was fun and they were having a splendid time. There was a lot of shoving and pushing as they ran alongside



the units of police, firemen, cadets, soldiers and scouts.

The ceremony began when all arrived at the Cenotaph. The Governor, accompanied by his wife, soon arrived on the scene. He was dressed in white with a plumed white helmet on his head and a thin black sword was tucked at his side. Wreaths were laid at the bigger obelisk in the triangular memorial ground by the Premier, the Bishop, ministers of religion and other officials. The wreaths were laid to remember those who fell *'doing duty for King and Country'*. On the brass plaque was a list of the names of *'those who made the ultimate sacrifice'*.

After the wreaths had been laid and prayers and short speeches made, the *'muskets rattle as they are taken through their paces. The steel-shod boots grate on the asphalt. Then the cannon from Fort Young boom out the salute to those who fell at Flanders Fields and hereafter. Then the mournful lament of the bugle calls out the Last Post'*.

[A Stand for self-determination](#)

Many Caribbean soldiers felt compelled to volunteer to fight to protect their 'Mother Country'. Some were treated harshly and a few revolted at Taranto in Italy in 1918 after the war had officially ended. They stood up to demand that they be treated fairly and allowed to serve under better conditions.

WW1 was happening at a time when the average Dominican family's diet was quite impoverished and the people were plagued by a variety of tropical infestations, including yaws, jiggers and parasitic worms. Many were denied opportunities for economic advancement and political power lay in the hands of a 'distant elite'. At the time Dominica was seen as the 'Ireland of the islands' with its wild and untamed terrain and evergreen nature. The population, consisting mainly of peoples of African and Kalinago (originally referred to as Caribs) origins, was as scattered in the valleys and furrows of the island 's towering mountain peaks as was the cultivation of coffee, cocoa, limes and sugar cane.

It has been stated that 15,200 West Indian soldiers travelled to Europe between 1915 and 1917. They were in nine (9) battalions that engaged in battle with enemy forces. The soldiers had to contend with prejudice, disease and inhospitable conditions. Many experienced segregation in transportation, housing, food rations, pay, medical treatment and even access to the canteen.

Why did they enlist?

For some, it was the desire to escape from poverty; for others it was an affinity nurtured by the belief that they were proud members of the British Empire; whilst for others it was a golden opportunity for political aspirations. (www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/west_indies_02.shtml)

Glenford D Hove 'A White Man's War? WW1 and The West Indies, cited in *For King and Country*)

A mixed bunch enlisted that included labourers, estate workers, longshoremen, stevedores, lawyers, accountants and teachers.

In **Trinidad**, Arthur Cipriani of Corsican and French ancestry, singlehandedly formed a West Indian Regiment there.

C L R James, the notable historian, offered to join the Merchants and Planters' contingent but his offer was rejected as the officer corps only admitted whites or near white people; a type of apartheid really. Most of the men in that regiment financed their own way to England to join the armed forces.

In **St Lucia**, two cousins, Nelson and Dennis Fevrier, travelled to England in September 1915 after they had completed the basic training. Their families, however, were informed just months later that they had both been killed.

Barbados: nine (9) men stowed away on a ship bound for England because they wanted to volunteer to join the army. They were arrested and charged when they arrived in England.

Bermuda: Two groups were formed in Bermuda; one consisted of black men only, the Bermuda Voluntary Artillery, and the other, the Rifle Corps, was for whites only. The latter were allowed to fight in France.

Astonishingly, nearly six (6) times more men died from illness, mainly pneumonia, than were killed on active duty or who died from wounds received in battle.

Although the British soldiers returned home after the armistice was signed, the West Indian Regiments were kept in Europe to perform menial and degrading tasks.

When Britain agreed to accept recruits from the West Indian colonies, The Legislative Council in Dominica agreed to pay separate allowances to the Dominican soldiers' dependants, including pensions or gratuities in lieu of pensions.

The first contingent was ready to be despatched to England by October 1915. They set sail by ship and were taken to Seaford North Camp in Sussex.

Dominica sent more recruits to the war effort by 1917 than any other colony in the Leeward Islands. Most were either labourers or the sons of peasant proprietors. Dominica had been devastated by severe storms in 1915, 1916 and 1917; many people were killed in Colihaut on the west coast and a lot of the crops were destroyed, especially in 1916 storm.

Soldiers who enlisted in the British West Indian Regiment

(Sources: For King and Country and Voice of Dominica, 1915)

Adonis C Alfred P Alside A Augustin N Albert J P Alfred J Augustin G
Andre M J C Aird J O - (Demarara) Archibald Reginald - (Antigua) Andrew Solomon -
(Antigua)
Bartt J R (on cenotaph) Bass J H Bishop A Baptiste J J Bascus C S - (Grenada, on
cenotaph) Bazil G Barrett Joseph - (Barbados) Burke Augustin Brown
Donald Butler Cyril Geo Barbarun Crawford
Caby J Casimir V L/C Christopher D J (Returnee) Cuffy G L/C Caby I
Celestine A Corriette B Carlisle William (Antigua) Christian James S Charles
Joseph Charles Ambrose
David C Desire F Dowe T Dublin J Dover J
Dyer S Dyett C Dyer G Dejean F DeComparary B Dyer Sergt A Drakes V -
(on cenotaph) Derrick Artemius Devin J B
Delsol Clifford F
Etienne Clarence (returnee) Etienne Victor R H Edwards Joseph - (Antigua)
Fairburn A Farrell J Fortune P Field T W V Frank James Frederick I
(returnee) Frederick T
George C George S G S E Grazette L - (Barbados) George N Gore Sergt J
Greenaway E
Harper E E Hazard V - (2nd Lieut, on cenotaph) Henry C Holder E Honore C (on
cenotaph)
Howard J Hendrickson C Hodge Sergt C - (Anguilla) Holder Corp C S
Horsford R O
Hunt R Henry William E - (Antigua) Herman E John Henry James (returnee) Horney M H
(returnee)
Irish W
James A James E James R James T (on cenotaph, died in Egypt)
James T T John A Jones E Jones J Junker T Jacob H John James E
(Antigua) James C James Edward 'Jacko' (returnee) James K James S Janper
R John S Jeanpierre R Jones H A Joseph Egbert - (returnee) Joseph John

Henry - (*Antigua*) Jemmot Harold R Joseph Christopher - (*Antigua*) Joseph Michael Jones Ed S C
 Knowles J F P Joseph - (*Antigua*) King Harold Knowles R
 Laudat M Lewis M Lewis J Lue HubertLoblack L Lawrence D P Lewis H - (*on cenotaph*) Leonard W Lugay H Lawrence F J A Lawrence J S - (*sent home due to illness*)
 Moitre J Mondesire Augustin - (*St Kitts*) Morancie Albert Marcial R Mannix Thomas - (*Antigua*)
 Norris A C - (*returnee*) Nelson M Nicodemus Daniel H - (*Antigua*) Nicholls W A- (*on cenotaph, 2nd Lieut Royal Fusiliers*)
 O'Garra J
 Peter James M - (*Antigua*) Peltier H J Peltier W T Peters Rawlings - (*returnee*)
 Pierre N Prince R F Pierre R J Parker Richard - (*Antigua*) Patrick Alex Charles
 Peters E A - (*on cenotaph, died of malaria on 23/10/1918*) Peltier McDonald - (*returnee*)
 Patrice D
 Pascal T Phillip W
 Ralph G Reid Skinner Geo Riley Abraham - (*Montserrat*) Roudette A S Robin F
 Robins H Richards L/C A
 Simon E A Stephenson L/C G W Severin B A Shield Marchen C - (*Montserrat*) St Rose S
 Scotland Robert W - (*Antigua*) Simon H G St Louis E Sully F C Sergeant - (*on cenotaph*)
 Theodore S Thomas J x2 Thomas JamesTrail L E Corp T W Trail J Sydney - (*returnee*)
 Tavernier Murray
 Watkins Albert - (*Montserrat*) Weeks J William E William J (*iii*) Williams J E
 Waldron A - (*returnee*) Watty J Winston George William Alban William J (*i*)
 William J - (*ii*) William P Willie T - (*on cenotaph*) Wenvem R

[Other Dominicans or persons with Dominican connections who served in WW1](#)

Agair, Capt A K, ASC (Army Signal Command)
 Aird, Sergeant J O, 31st Royal Fusiliers
 Ashpitel, Capt G F, 1st Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment (MC)
 Becher, Major E F in command of the Prisoner of War (PoW) Camp
 Bouchier, Rev L C (ASC)
 Becher, 2nd Lieut E C R F A,
 Brown C
 Bryant G K, Artists Corps
 Burham Rev A G (ASC)
 Camacho Fabian, East Riding Yorkshire Imperial Yeomanry
 Campbell A
 Chamberlain R H, Flight Commander, Royal Flying Corps
 Cooke L
 Crawford J N
 Cunningham Lieut R D S, 1st Scots Guard
 Davenport A, King Edward's own House (PoW)

Duke, L C O St A, 4th Royal Fusiliers
 Earden, John 2nd Lieut Royal Field Artillery, special reserve
 Elliot Rev G A (ASC)
 Esdarle, Lieut P R K (ASC)
 Etienne Clarence, Marine Transport Service
 Everington Capt F E (ASC)
 Frampton Pte H
 Grell H O, Canadian Field Artillery
 Johns H T S, 2nd Lieut, 9th Battalion, Welsh Regiment - (*on cenotaph*)
 Jones G A
 Madgwick Stanley A R A MC
 Nicholls W A, 2nd Lieut Royal Fusiliers
 Peebles Major H W, Headquarters Aldershot
 Randell Capt A S, Assistant Provost Marshall, Jaffa
 Rees Williams, Capt D E, Indian Medical Service
 Rees Williams, 2nd Lieut, O L 31st West Somerset Yeomanry
 Rose Capt D B, 95th Siege Battery
 Shand Lieut Francis B B, Royal Flying Corps
 Sills Dr, Surgeon on Ambulance Ship
 Storr Major L P, 12th King's Liverpool Regiment - (*on cenotaph*)
 Simon Major L P, 12th King's Liverpool Regiment
 Trigg H W, Royal Field Artillery
 Vassallo Capt S, Royal Army Medical Corps
 Woolward C D, Canadian Royal Force Artillery

(*LC = Lance Corporal; Sergt = Sergeant; Lieut = Lieutenant; Capt = Captain; Pvte = Private*)

Post War

Dominica had always proved to be a challenge to the colonizing authorities. The people's rebellious spirit, especially the Maroons, and the harshness of the terrain at times compromised the cultivation of cash crops like limes, coffee, cocoa and sugar cane.

The fate of many Dominican soldiers in WW1 was not unlike that suffered by their African-American contemporaries in arms. Many were scarred by the harsh conditions they were forced to endure under white commanding officers. Those who returned to England after the armistice was signed were not invited to take part in the victory march past the cenotaph in London with their white counterparts. These men who felt such compulsion to fight to protect their 'Mother Country' were showered with hate and scorn. In the words of Charles Hamilton Houston (1895-1950) what was the sense in dying for a world ruled by such people?

Andre and Christian (2008) argued that the experiences of war transformed the British West Indian soldier into an agent for change. How did that happen?

1. Inter-island and overseas travel opened the men's eyes to the oppression under which many of the islanders lived;
2. Racial and class divisions spurred rebellions in the US, British, French, German and Russian armies;

3. The rise of Marcus Garvey's UNIA was seen as '*subversive instrumentalities*' in the wake of improving the education systems in the Caribbean. Men from the Caribbean were beginning to feel and think of themselves as good as the white man;
4. The British Empire was beginning to show signs of weakening. Ex-soldiers became activists who changed people's perceptions about their status in the Empire. They told the people that they were free citizens and no longer captives.
5. The Caribbean soldier's self-confidence developed from a '*psychology that was grounded in victory*' as he became part of an organised and armed unit. Ex-servicemen from Antigua were reported to be angry that they were made to perform the dirtiest tasks and received no promotion. One was quoted to have said that never again would he be prepared to go again to fight for the blooming Empire. (*Selwyn O'Ryan, 1972, 'Race and Nationalism in Trinidad and Tobago, Toronto University Press; quoted in For King and Country, 2008*)

Only 60 men out of a total of 180 recruits who underwent a medical examination at the Roseau Hospital were considered to be medically fit with no signs of infection. The medical reports prepared by Dr Henry Alfred Alford Nicholls listed a variety of diseases including: hookworm, roundworm and whipworm among others.

Dominica lost 24 soldiers in the war.

Returnees

After the war a number of recruits returned to Dominica, including:

- Captain William James Ross Stebbings who saw active service in South Africa, Egypt and France. He later became the owner of estates at Londonderry and Woodford Hill.
- Captain G F Ashpitel became the owner of a large estate in the north-eastern part of the island.
- James Henry worked as a rent collector.
- M H Horney became a teacher at the Roseau Boys School.
- Dennis Christopher became a truck driver for the Public Works Department.
- Rawlins Peters became a bailiff of the Supreme Court and a Sergeant of the Dominica Defence Force. He suffered from battle fatigue, now known as Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.
- Clarence Etienne became a manager at Sugar Loaf estate.
- T Frederick worked as a launch operator.
- Edward 'Jacko' James became a master carpenter, joiner and barber.
- Egbert Joseph became a farmer and fisherman.
- McDonald Peltier migrated to Cuba in the 1920s then returned to Point Michel to start a retail business.

- A C Norris became an employee of the Roseau City Council.
- Sidney J Trail became a messenger at Barclays Bank.
- A Waldron was sent home due to illness and he was employed at Picard Estate.

Dominica's contributions to the war effort were exceptionally disproportionate when compared to the economic situation prevailing in the island at the time. Severe restrictions were placed on the people's livelihoods as '*all its resources and efforts were dedicated to the war effort*'. On 6 August 1914, Martial Law was proclaimed with the accompanying threat that anyone caught in the act of an illegal activity would be severely punished. For example, the penalty for illegal distillation of alcohol, *moonshine*, would warrant a fine of no less than 40 shillings and not more than £10 or up to three (3) months' incarceration at His Majesty's pleasure.

Everyone was expected to contribute money to the war effort from school children to senior citizens.

The generosity of the West Indian islands as a whole was outstanding. They contributed almost £2 million to the British government and gave nine (9) aeroplanes to the Royal Flying Corps and 11 ambulances to the British Red Cross.

Listed among those who received significant financial assistance from Dominica included:

	£	s	d
His Majesty's Government		10,000	0
0			
The Belgian Relief Fund	2,257	2	0
The British Red Cross	956	16	5
Queen Mary Hospital, Roehampton		200	0
0			
Crippled Soldiers and Sailors	194	8	1
King George's Fund for Sailors	176	0	0
The French Red Cross	98	4	1
The Prince of Wales Fund	50	0	0
Princess Mary's Christmas Fund	47	10	0
The West Indian Contingent Fund per Mrs Didier		28	5
6			
Officers' Families Fund	8	15	0
The West Indian Contingent Fund		3	5
6			

It beggars belief that so little of the money raised from the sweat of the brow of the inhabitants of this impoverished island should be allocated to the welfare of the sons of the soil who are a long way from home. Bah!

Making the case for recruits

The Voice of Dominica reported on 4 August 1915 that it was a glorious period for the people of Dominica as Dominica was a mere speck on the map of the world. Recruits would be able to assert themselves as men in the true sense of the word and called for

men *'capable of discerning barbarism from civilization'* and to defend at any cost *'the most cherished 20th Century civilization against the Teutonic bid for world-wide domination'*.

The paper exhorted the people not to permit this golden opportunity to pass by: an opportunity that afforded them the means to assert themselves as men capable of upholding right and suppressing wrong. In full steam the paper presses on to ask:

'Who is the man here in Dominica that can read or hear of German "frightfulness" executed during the last 12 months and his blood will not surge for revenge?'

An appeal came to the Roseau Town Council from the Central Committee for National Patriotic Organisations to the citizens of the British Empire asking people to celebrate the anniversary of the declaration of war. The Council responded by formulating a programme for a patriotic demonstration as the call had come for young Dominican men to cheerfully respond to a call to arms. The men were to give tangible proof of their determination that: (1) They are men; (2) They are Christians; and (3) They are British subjects.

W H Potter told the Council that Dominicans repulsed French invasion 110 years ago with much gallantry. It was therefore in the same spirit that the young men should be as gallant as their forefathers. He said the men who had already joined up to fight were not Dominicans; they were Englishmen. He therefore urged native Dominicans to go and fight so that when the war was over Dominica would be enrolled among the places that took part in the war.

The following was published in the paper:

To The Women!

*Hark! A trumpet sound we here
Bidding one and all prepare,
Far and distant is the cry,
Who will dare to pass it by?
See the Belgian children die,
Their helpless mothers standing by:
Give of your best to avenge such wrong,
Let 'for freedom's cause' be in your song.
Mother sacrifice your son,
For to such we say well done,
Sweetheart, wife, fail not to give,
Those for whom you now do live
When this fiery strife is o'er
And the world's at peace once more,
Your sacrifice will bring you joy'
For this world's cause you gave your boy.*

J A B

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