



### 3. Write a booklet to the Middlewich People at War on behalf of the 'Comforts Committee'

**Subjects covered:** Local History, WW2, Citizenship, Art & Design, ICT, English, and Geography

**Skills Required:** Speaking, listening and communication, reading and writing

**Notes for the teacher:** All School references can be found either in the Schools folder or in 'The War at Home' pages.

Use photographs from the past of Middlewich, together with written and audio visual material. The following ideas and questions can guide you towards classroom sessions that include the above skills and subject areas, engaging differing age groups and abilities.

#### **Resources on this site include:**

- A WW1 booklet example is enclosed as part of this session plan.
- Interpretation Board No 2 'The Story of HMS Jasper'
- People Gallery – Special Report of local serving men
- Further Resources available from Middlewich Town Council Book Shop, including Allan Earl's book 'Middlewich at War'

A serving soldier could still have access to mail or even parcels through the various Aid Committees. Middlewich had its own Comforts Committee that started in WW1, trying to maintain morale while serving their country or held as a prisoner of war. Messages from loved ones, those in authority or support from their home town were in the form of poems, messages for morale, prayers and pictures. Such things enabled soldiers a slice of home, pride and hope of being able to see their families again.

As a class, you can form your own 'Comforts Committee' the pupils must decide what kind of material to pull together for their booklet, they can either choose something that already exists or create their own poem, artwork or message etc.

Some background research can be done on people serving abroad and their various jobs; where were they stationed? How different is the place where they are working to home? Explore the roles needed during war-time, Middlewich people served in many different places, sometimes the job was fighting, sometimes at sea, others served in depots and supplies or did war-work in factories making parts for planes and ships. What messages do the pupils want to send to them?

Your Comforts Committee could also discuss what type of parcel would they send with their booklet, type of clothing, magazine, piece of soap or your ration of sweets? Perhaps tie this in with the current conflict abroad; look at the similarities and differences between the mid-twentieth century and the twenty-first century. The pupils could send messages, pictures, prayers or the booklet to our Cheshire Regiment, (Mercian).

Session Plan 3