Annie Ure Atrebates Talk: WW1 at University College Reading

Ure Museum archive

"The excavation at Lowbury was finished in July 1914. In August the First World War began... the men went off to the war. Few came back, the casualties were fearful. ... All those I knew at all well got killed, except one.

Mr Atkinson joined up and was given a farewell dinner. ... Later on they did want him, but he didn't get a second farewell dinner.

As he had been out for some time at the British School at Rome, and spoke Italian fluently, we expected he would be sent to the Italian front as a liaison officer. Not a bit of it. ... They sent him to a yeomanry camp in Kent...

After he had gone, Professor Ure was left with all the teaching.... Even with the valuable help of the classical tutor from Lady Margaret Hall who came over one day a week, it was impossible, and I was fetched back to Reading to help with the teaching and eventually to run the College library as well."