On the Beat: Stories from 1914-1918: A Fresh Approach to interpreting Crime History at Bishop’s Stortford Museum

Abstract
Following the donation of a rare collection of policing documents from World War I, Bishop’s Stortford Museum displayed these remarkable accounts in a temporary exhibition entitled ‘On the Beat: The Great War 1914-1918.’ Within this article I aim to theorise the problematic aspects of museum exhibition design and the construction of meaning within the context of exhibiting historical policing archives. This will be achieved by addressing specific elements within the gallery space, including the use of colour, atmosphere and emotion as well as the primary communicative approach of employing graphic novels and comic strips. I endeavour to illustrate that using a thoughtful, targeted and multimodal exhibitionary complex is a highly successful means of disseminating policing history to a broad audience.

Citation

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Afflerbach, Holger and Stevenson, David (eds.) Arthur, Max. 2002. Forgotten voices of the Great War: A new history of WWI in the words of the men and women who were there. London: Elbury Press/Random House. Audoin-Rouzeau, Stéphane and Annette Becker. War stories aimed at boys, such as Brereton's Under Haig in Flanders (1918), typically featured brave British soldiers enjoying steaming mugs of cocoa before a 'spree' into enemy territory to fight sneaky and underhand Germans. In fiction for girls, Kennedy detects a desire on the part of female authors to explore some of the opportunities open to women in wartime, as well as to reassure readers that such workers had lost none of their feminine charm. Toy nurses were popular during the war, but Kennedy has been unable to find their fictional counterparts in print. The History Learning Site, 6 Mar 2015. 1 Feb 2019. The Home Front during World War One refers to life in Britain during the war itself. The Home Front saw a massive change in the role of women, rationing, the bombing of parts of Britain by the Germans (the first time civilians were targeted in war), conscientious objectors and strikes by discontented workers. The whole nation was under the jurisdiction of DORA (Defence of the Realm Act). When war was declared in August 1914, there were street celebrations throughout the length and breadth of Great Britain. Such scenes were repeated throughout