



The National Archives

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Victory, peace and port – the untold story of the Armistice

As Britain marks the 90th anniversary of the WWI Armistice, The National Archives brings to life a fascinating, unofficial account of the negotiations that ended the Great War.

From the bottle of port and biscuits produced following the signing of the armistice agreement, to the shouts of “La Victoire! La Victoire!” on the streets of Paris, this first-hand account gives a detailed insight behind the scenes of one of the most important meetings in history.

As of today (11 November), Commander Walter Theodore Bagot’s words will be available for a worldwide audience to hear online, as part of The National Archives’ season of WWI podcasts – *Voices of the Armistice*:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/armistice

Commander Bagot was a qualified German interpreter who accompanied the British negotiating team that went to France in November 1918. While he may not have been one of the key players at the talks, Commander Bagot’s first hand account of events puts the listener right in the middle of the action.

Born in Chiswick, Commander Bagot joined the Royal Navy in 1900 and spent most of the First World War with Naval Intelligence.

His account starts as the British delegates arrive in France on 7 November 1918, to be taken to the train of the Allied Supreme Commander, Marshal Ferdinand Foch, which was to be the modest venue for the talks. It continues in great detail, covering the intense discussions as the two sides try to come to an agreement. The account ends with the final signing of the document at 5am on 11 November, and the final departure of the British delegation.

The *Voices of the Armistice* series includes other fascinating podcasts, including private soldiers’ war diaries, letters and cards. New podcasts,

including extracts from the Treaty of Versailles, will be added online up until 21 November.

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For more information please contact:

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Notes to Editors

About The National Archives

The National Archives is a UK government department and executive agency of the Ministry of Justice. As the official archives of the UK government, it preserves and protects one of the most important collections in the world, holding public records dating back almost 1,000 years.

The National Archives and Military History

The National Archives has a huge collection of records dealing with Britain's military history, holding documents that reveal strategy, equipment and the experience of those that fought.

Details of the records held, which include individual service records and medal rolls, can be found at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/militaryhistory/ along with details on how to carry out research.

A number of World War One teaching resources, including workshops and lesson plans which have been created using records held by The National Archives, can be found on the award-winning Learning Curve website, www.learningcurve.gov.uk

Facts and figures

- Documents line 170km of shelving at The National Archives, with approximately 2km added every year
- In total, its repositories hold just over 10 million documents
- The National Archives' digitisation programme has seen the number of online downloads per year go from zero to 85 million in seven years.