

WAR WEAPONS WEEK

On Thursday 23rd May 1915, an aeroplane and a Red Cross motor arrived at the Square, the latter fitted up as an office with two lady clerks in attendance. Mrs Powell-Cotton opened the proceedings with a speech.

Thursday was called 'Ladies' Day', Friday was 'Men's Day' and Saturday was 'Children's Day'. The object was to obtain the sum of **£5,000** for the purpose of providing two aeroplanes, but this sum was more than realised in the first two days.

On Thursday before 4 pm **£2500** was taken.

On Friday morning the amount was **£7,215**.

On Saturday morning **£7,558** was taken.

By the evening of Saturday the handsome sum was **£10,023**.

This was later raised to **£13,600**.

This is equivalent to **£539,920 / £540,000** in **2002!!**

Their original target, for a community of about 2000 souls, was **£5000** and would be equivalent to **£198,500** in present day terms. In **1915** terms, they were being asked for about **£2.50** from every man, woman and child, when a week's wages for a whole family were often about **£1- £1.50**. In the end, they actually gave what averages out as **£6.80** from each person. In present day terms their eventual gift was worth :

£270 for every man, woman and child!

This amount was raised almost certainly by War Bonds.
[These figures are based on those issued by the Bank of England to me 20th February 2002. Their estimate is based on £1 in 1915 = £39.70 in 2002]

[I also queried the value for 1794 for John Harrison, which was £1 in 1790 = £55.20 in 2002.]