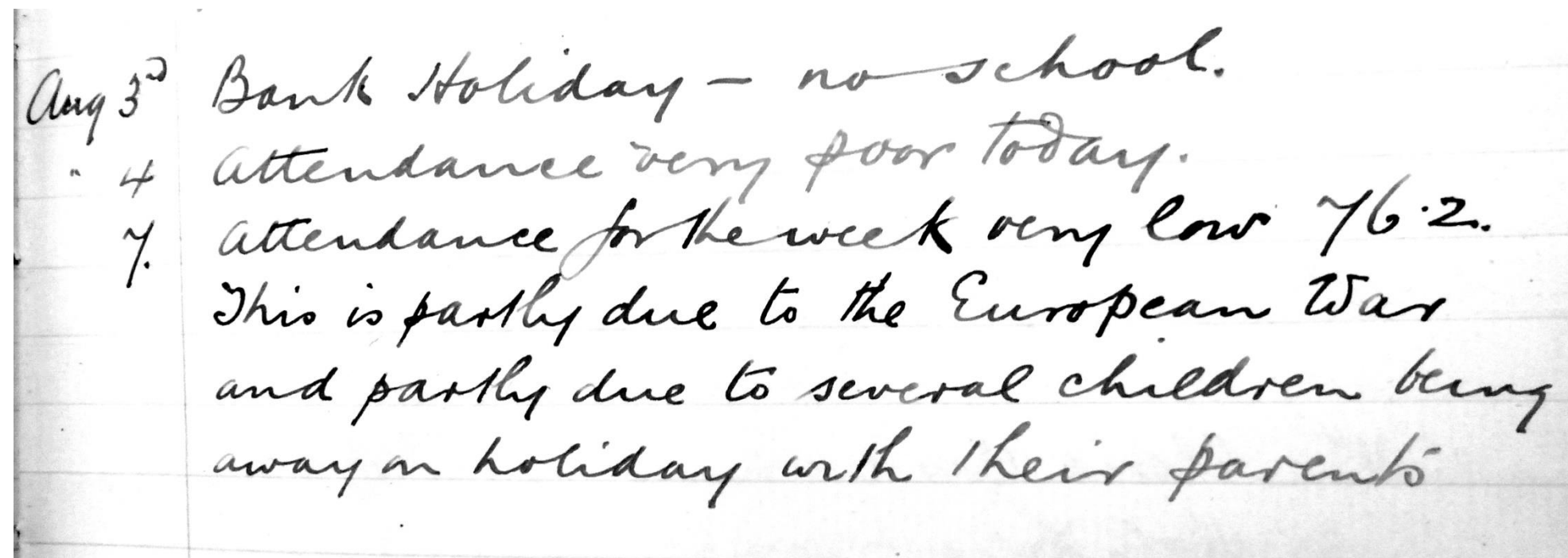


4 AUGUST 1914 – WAR DECLARED

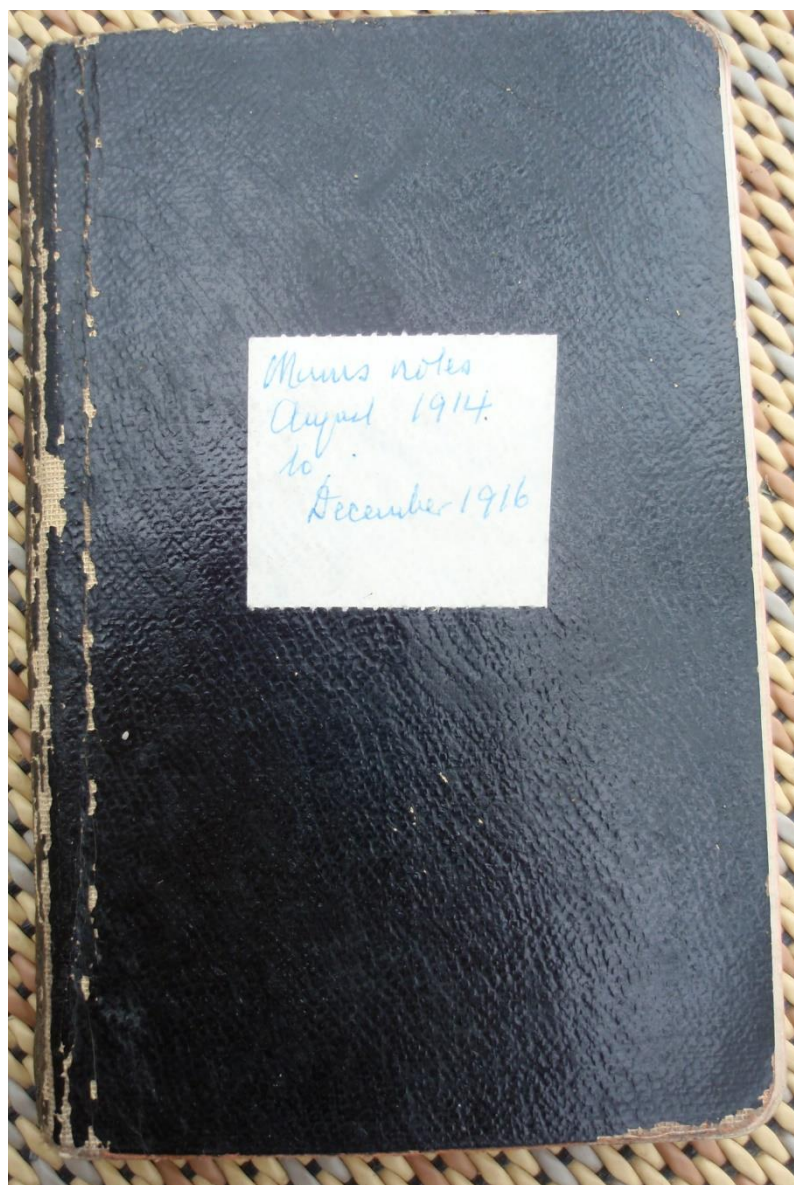
There are few records of how this was recorded locally, but two have been found. In Farningham the 'angelus' or war prayer bell rang daily at noon for parishioners to offer prayers for the success and preservation of the British forces and their allies.

A photograph of a handwritten school log entry on lined paper. The text is written in cursive and matches the typed transcription below. The entry is dated August 3rd to 7th, 1914, and describes a bank holiday and very poor school attendance due to the war and children on holiday.

Aug 3rd Bank Holiday - no school.
" 4 Attendance very poor today.
" 7 Attendance for the week very low 76.2.
This is partly due to the European War
and partly due to several children being
away on holiday with their parents

Eynsford Board (Council) School Log - August 4-7, 1914

Attendance poor partly due to war in Europe, partly because children on holiday with parents

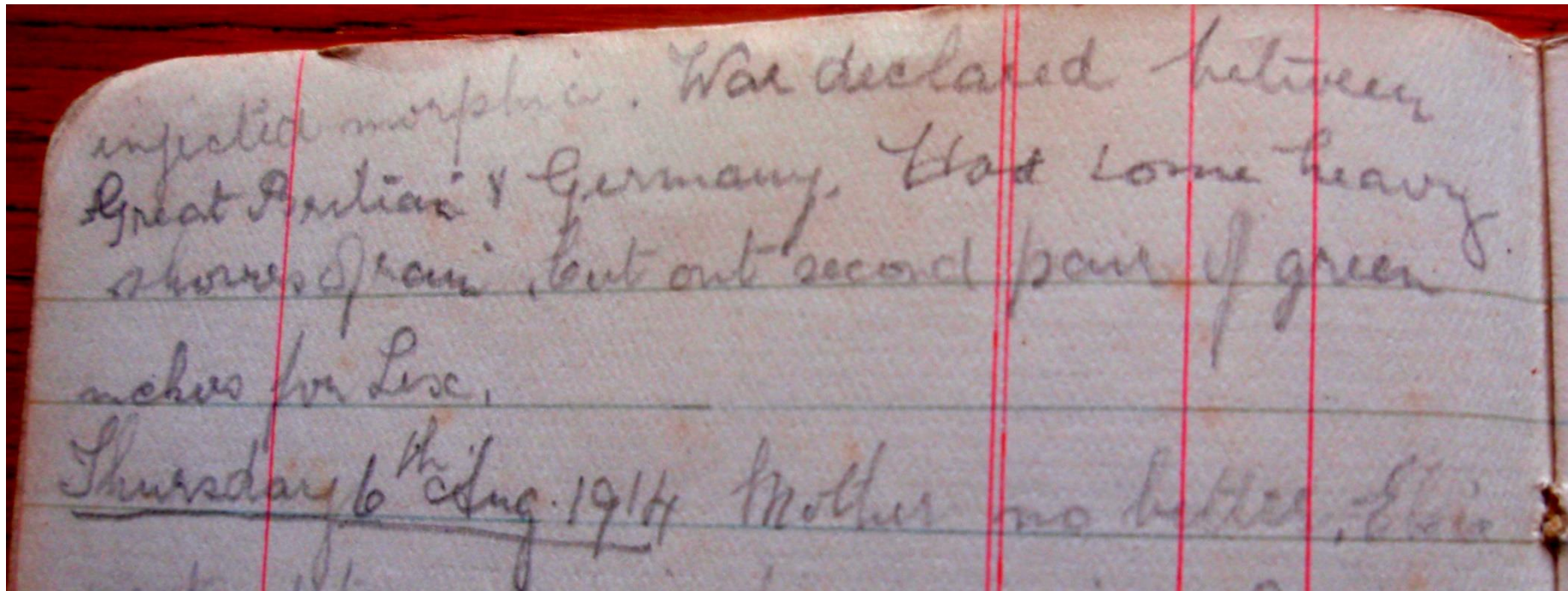


DIARY OF ELSIE CLEMENTS, FARMER'S WIFE, OF CROCKENHILL

4 August 1914

Aleck (her husband) home from 9.30 a.m. from London. Elsie took the children with Dollie to Gosenhill to see the engine threshing oats. Had to go into the wheelwright's shop because a heavy shower came on. Called at the farm (Church Farm) to see mother who was feeling very bad and had had the doctor in. Got to Gosenhill in time for dinner. Did a lot of darning. Went out on Cacketts Hill with Aleck after tea, then went to the farm again and found that mother was no better. Raymond (brother) walked home with Elsie. People in the street were eagerly scanning newspapers for news of war between Germany etc. Arthur (brother-in-law) in at 9 o'clock talking it over. Aleck went to the farm at 10 o'clock to see if mother any better. War broke out between Great Britain and Germany.

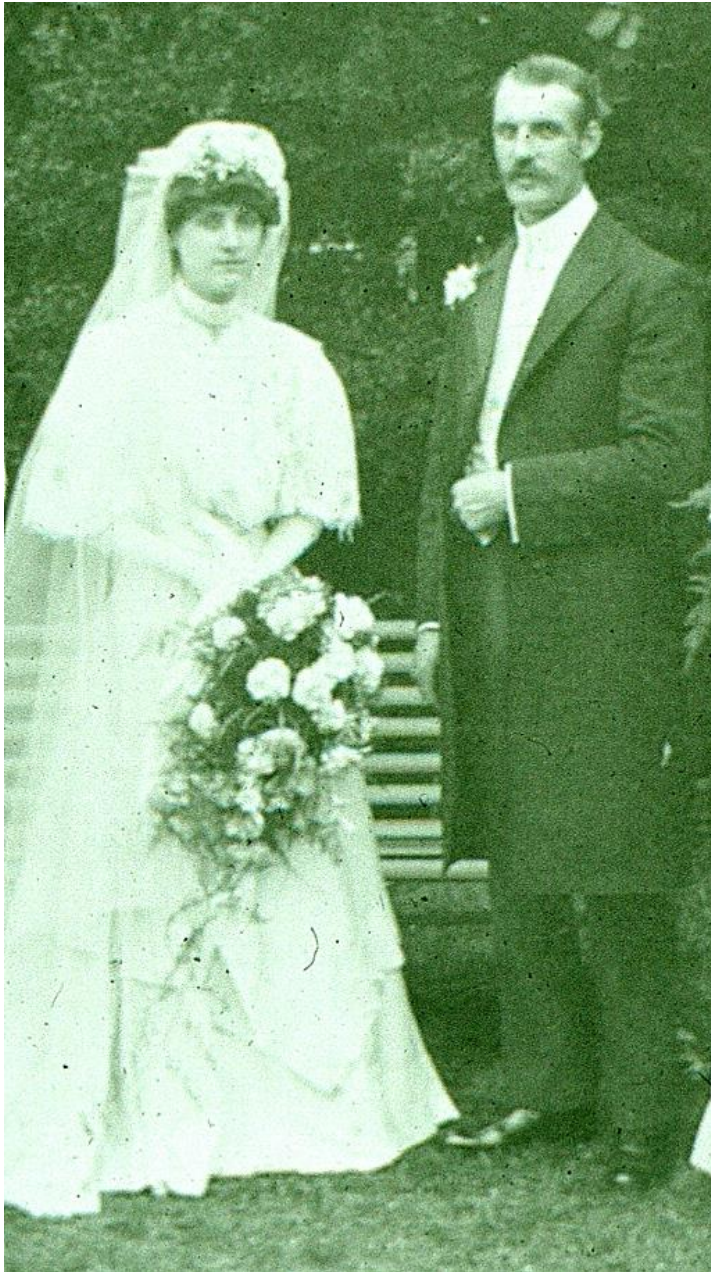
DIARY OF ELSIE CLEMENTS, FARMER'S WIFE, OF CROCKENHILL



injected morphia. War declared between
Great Britain & Germany. Had some heavy
showers of rain. Cut out second pair of green
nickers for Lex.
Thursday 6th Aug. 1914 Mother no better. Elsie

Elsie Clements' diary for 5 August 1914 She was worried about her mother's health at the time and the doctor had 'injected morphia'. The declaration of war was mentioned without comment, followed by daily trivia. 'War declared between Great Britain & Germany. Had some heavy showers of rain. Cut out second pair of green nickers (?sic) for Lex.

DIARY OF ELSIE CLEMENTS, FARMER'S WIFE, OF CROCKENHILL



Elsie (Everest) married Alexander (Aleck) Clements in 1907. They lived at Tilecroft, Stones Cross Road.

Children:

Alexander (Lex) b. 1908

Bernard b. 1910

Beryl b. 1913

Joyce b. 1916



Tilecroft, 2013

INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED BY SCHOOLS ON OUTBREAK OF WAR

Circulars from Kent Education Committee

Special prayer circulated for use during the war period.

Schools to remain open in case they might be used for hospitals.

KEC to be notified immediately if school was requisitioned.

Girls could be employed for charitable purposes in connection with the war, especially the making of garments in Needlework, as long as there was no interference with instruction in other subjects and involved K.E.C. in no extra expense.

Free use of school premises by those requiring venue for purposes arising out of the war, e.g. enrolment of special constables, relief of distress and recruiting.

School attendance to be enforced as usual.

Older boys to be released for service on the roads if Chief Constable requested.

No general permission for absence of Scouts, those most fitted for the service to be selected whether or not Scouts.

1st EYNSFORD SCOUT GROUP



Eynsford First Scout Group, 1912: Back l>r: E. Hutt, A. Wood, G. Vidler, B. Pierce, A. Chadwick. Middle: V. Carpenter, H. Hoad, Miss Sydney Dyke, Bill Blake, Cecil Roberts. Front row: C. Rivers, J. Mackreth, H. Hunt, R. Taylor, Fred Ingram

EYNSFORD SCOUTS

Registered by: Hon. Sydney Hart Dyke in 1912 as 1st Eynsford Troop.

H.Q: Outbuilding behind the house next to Lullingstone Roman Villa.

Members of troop in 1916, with badges taken:

H. Hoad (**Lion patrol leader**) **Cyclist, Engineer, Gardener, Musician**

W. Blake Gardener, **Laundryman**

G. Vidler **Basket-worker**, Cyclist, Gardener, Laundryman,
Musician, **Pathfinder**

J. Mackreth Cyclist, Engineer, Gardener, Musician, **Naturalist**

H. Hutt (**Woodpigeon patrol leader**) Carpenter, Cyclist, Gardener, Laundryman, Naturalist,
War Service

E. Roberts Cyclist, Gardener, Laundryman, Naturalist, War Service

Ernest Watts Gardener, Naturalist, Pathfinder

R. Belson Naturalist, Pathfinder

W. Lambert 2nd Class this month

J. Watts (**Bulldog patrol leader**) Gardener, **Farmer, Friend to animals**, Naturalist

S. Barber Cyclist, Gardener, Laundryman, Naturalist, Pathfinder

Eric Watts Naturalist, Pathfinder

F. Friend Musician

F. Lambert 2nd Class this month

No badges listed for E. Martin and W. Friend

FELHS publication no.12 'A History
of the 1st Eynsford and Farningham
Scout Group', by A.J. Williams

CROCKENHILL SCOUTS

Crockenhill Scout Group was formed sometime in the First World War by an Australian, Keith Hudson. It soon had 150 boys (see photograph in Peace Celebration section).



Keith Hudson, who founded Crockenhill Scouts, returned to Australia shortly after the War



Scout patrol leaders: (back l>r) Wally Packman, Victor Pierce, Alan Partridge, Harry Peck, George Pontin; (front) Sid Roberts, Jim Smith, Ron Pontin, Bill Everest, showing Lion and Kangaroo banners