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*Full transcript*

URBAN DISTRICT OF HORSHAM

The French Relief Fund

To the inhabitants of the Urban District of Horsham

Acting upon a letter received from the Secretary to the "French Relief Fund" Committee, the Urban District Council have decided to make an appeal throughout the District on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July. This is the day celebrated throughout France as a National Holiday, in commemoration of the taking of the Bastille, a day reminding the people of the winning of their liberty from the hand of the oppressor. The main objects of this fund are to give British assistance to French victims of the War, and especially to alleviate the terrible distress caused by the inhuman conduct of the Germans to the ill-clad, suffering and homeless women and children in the devastated [sic] Provinces of France.

The collection is being organised on similar lines as the Prince of Wales' Fund, by the sale of Flags, Flowers and Badges in the streets of the town on the above date.

It is sincerely hoped that a liberal response will be given to this appeal on behalf of our gallant French Ally.

Contributions may be sent to me as Treasurer, or paid to the credit of the Fund at either of the Local Banks, on or before July 14<sup>th</sup>. It is also proposed to divide the town into districts for collection, and a duly authorised representative will call on each resident on the above date, when it is hoped a donation will be given or a purchase made of the flags, flowers and badges which will be offered for sale.

Charles Rowland,  
Chairman of Horsham Urban District Council.

Council Offices, Horsham,  
1<sup>st</sup> July, 1915.

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West Sussex County Times 10<sup>th</sup> July 1915

THE FRENCH RELIEF FUND

To The Editor, West Sussex County Times

Dear Sir,- Acting upon a letter received from the Secretary to the "French Relief Fund" Committee, the Urban District Council have decided to make an appeal throughout the District on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July. This is the day celebrated throughout France as a national Holiday, in commemoration of the taking of the Bastille, a day reminding the people of the winning of their liberty from the hand of the oppressor. The main objects of this fund are to give British assistance to French victims of the war, and especially to alleviate the terrible distress caused by the inhuman conduct of the Germans to the ill clad suffering and homeless women and children in the devastated Provinces of France.

The collection is being organised on similar lines as the Prince of Wales' Fund, by the sale of Flags in the streets of the town on the above date.

It is sincerely hoped that a liberal response will be given to this appeal on behalf of our gallant French Ally.

Contributions may be paid to the credit of the fund at either of the local Banks, on or before July 14<sup>th</sup>. It is also proposed to divide the town into districts for collection, and a duly authorised representative will call on each resident on the above date, when it is hoped a donation will be given, or a purchase made of the Flags which will be offered for sale.

Collecting boxes will also be found in the hotels and in many of the business establishments of the town. It is also hoped that collections will be taken for the Fund in the various churches. If this is not possible, may I suggest that a retiring collection be taken at the doors, boxes for which the Committee will supply on application.

The Horsham Town Band and the Recreation Band have kindly consented to give band performances on the Carfax on Tuesday and Wednesday evening next at 7.30, the collection on both occasions to be given to the Fund. On Wednesday evening at 8.45 a short Public Meeting will be held on the Bandstand presided over by Charles Rowland, Esq., J.P., Chairman of the Horsham District Council, supported by members of the Council, when the principal speaker will be E. I. Bostock, Esq., J.P.

The townspeople generally are asked to join wholeheartedly in this effort to raise a substantial amount to present to President Raymond Poincare for the purpose of relieving the suffering women and children of Northern France. In the security of our island home let us not forget the brave French nation is pouring out the blood of its manhood to crush the menace of liberty, civilisation and indeed all that humanity holds sacred. France has joined hands with us to fight the common foe.

Let us join hands with her to feed and shelter her women and children.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

E E LAWRENCE,

Hon Sec to the Local Committee

West Sussex County Times 17<sup>th</sup> July 1915

#### FRENCH FLAG DAY AT HORSHAM

Although Wednesday was dull with rain at times, the French Flag Day celebrations were a distinct success. The Urban Council had made the arrangement, and a personal appeal to every householder had been made by the Chairman, Mr Charles Rowland, J.P. Mr E. E. Lawrence J.P. ably discharged the hon. Secretarial duties and the town was thoroughly well canvassed by a host of helpers who started operations at an early hour.

No fewer than 7,000 flags had been purchased for the day's sale and it was thought this would be more than sufficient for all requirements. Thanks to the energies of the ladies and the house to house sale organised, this number was entirely disposed of shortly after midday and still there was a big demand. However, ribbon was effectively utilised and the sale assumed remarkable dimensions. Both Bands assisted, the Recreation Band giving a performance on Tuesday night (under Bandmaster E W Miles) and collecting £2 10s 6d and the Horsham Town Band (under Bandmaster W H Harris) on Wednesday evening.

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West Sussex County Times 17<sup>th</sup> July 1915

#### THE FRENCH FLAG DAY

We have this morning received the following details from Mr E E Lawrence.

Sale of flags in streets of town:	£64.	8s	1d
Recreation Band Performance	2.	7s.	6d
Town Band Performance	2.	15s	9d
Church Collections	9.	1s	8½d
Individual donations	100.	0s	6d

Subscription lists at the Banks will be kept open a few days, or donations may be sent to Mr Chas. Rowland, Treasurer, or Mr E. E. Lawrence, Hon. Secretary.