



SUNK MAY 1915 (1196 DIED)

Leytonstone and Riots

“The trouble seems to have been started by youngsters but it was like the holding of a candle to straw and soon there were crowds gathered bent on destruction”



DISTRICT NOT KNOWN

It was not just the sinking of the Lusitania that provoked the riots. British sons were dying in France and Gallipoli, Zeppelin raids were expected on London, prices were going up and news of German atrocities in Belgium were being used to encourage enlistment. This stream of constant bad news, coupled with the rantings of anti - German groups, fostered resentment.

The Police response was effective and many were arrested. One shop owner (in Leyton) had been saved by the intervention of a councillor who told the mob that the owner had lost a son fighting for the British.

Some of the comments made by the rioters in court were...

“You don’t call this stealing do you?”

“All Germans should be extinguished”

“They were looting the shop. I had my share”

TO THE
BRITISH PUBLIC
I, ELLEN WENGEL (nee ELLEN BLIGH),
bred and born in the County of Norfolk, England. And whose family are all born in Leytonstone, appeal to a generous public for fair treatment and support in carrying on my business as
UMBRELLA MAKER
at 817, HIGH ROAD, LEYTONSTONE
RE - COVERING AND REPAIRING A SPECIALITY
N.B - The Toy and Fancy Shop at the end of Church Lane will be carried on by my daughters

There were many Germans living in Leytonstone. Some owned shops, some had English spouses but in 1914 all were subject to new regulations while those of ‘fighting age’ were interned.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC
Mr. J. H. Buck, baker and confectioner, 568 and 570 High - road Leytonstone desires it to be notified that he was born at Aix - La - Chapelle on the Belgian frontier, Brussels. In 1887 he came to England and renounced his foreign rights and privileges. In 1891 he married and English lady and during 1910 was granted letters of naturalisation

The Leytonstone riots happened a day later than others in London. A crowd of 2000 attacked the ‘Thatched House’ pub and surrounding shops. It then moved north to Harrow Road and Church Lane smashing windows and ransacking German owned properties - terrifying the families within. Mr Buck’s advertisement (see above) did not save his shop from destruction.

TYPICAL COURT CASES

W. Bircham (Dunmow Rd.) Fined £2
(Malicious damage to a shop window)

H. Gascoigne (High Rd.) Remanded
(Stealing goods to value of £12)