

**C DIBO      Postcard photographs of Wilson Line crew as      1916-c.1918**  
**prisoners of war during the First World War**

**Historical Background:** The Wilson Line owned ss. Aaro was employed in the Scandinavian maritime routes, carrying emigrants from Kristiansand in Norway to Hull. Her maiden voyage was in 1909. She was torpedoed on 16 August 1916 by German submarine U-20 on passage from Hull, with the loss of 3 crew members. The remaining crew were picked up and taken to Rotterdam, where it was announced via telegram they were being held as prisoners of war by the Germans.

The ss. Aaro had a crew of twenty-nine. Able-seaman, Humphrey Watson was one of its crew, and he along with the rest of the crew members, resided in Hull. Humphrey Watson lived at 62 Devon Street, Gipseville and can be identified in some of the images. It was Humphrey who sent these postcard images back to his wife, H. Watson. Unfortunately no other crew members are identified, though in some of the images Wilson Line jumpers are been worn by other individuals. Humphrey along with other crew members of the ss. Aaro were held at Brandenburg, which was a prisoner of war camp for Naval and Merchant Marine personnel.

Humphrey Watson returned to Hull after the war and continued as an Able-Seaman.

**Custodial history:** Deposited by Barbara Bourne in 2022, the granddaughter of Humphrey Watson.

**Description:** Postcard images of prisoners of war, including crew members of the ss. Aaro.

**Extent:** 11 items

**Related material:** The Hull Daily Mail reports the sinking of the ss Aaro (24 August 1916, p.4), and lists the full crew, including their addresses. The Hull Daily Mail is available on microfilm at the Hull History Centre. Access is also available for free via The British Newspaper Archive at the History Centre.

**Access conditions:** Access will be granted to any accredited reader

C DIBO/1	Shows five men as prisoners of war, four wearing Wilson Line jumpers. In the centre is Humphrey Watson 1 item	1916-c.1918
C DIBO/2	Shows a prisoner of war football team. Humphrey Watson is back row, third from the left. Postcard is addressed to Mrs. H Watson of 62 Devon Street, from H Watson, Able-Seaman, ss Aaro, Brandenburg, Germany 1 item	1916-c.1918

Hull History Centre: Postcard photographs of Wilson Line crew members as prisoners of war during The First World War

C DIBO/3	Shows a prisoner of war football team. The plaque reads 'undefeated 19 of 18, 2nd league, Brandenburg FC. Humphrey Watson is back row, third from the left. Postcard is addressed to Mrs. H Watson of 62 Devon Street, from H Watson, Able-Seaman, ss Aaro, Brandenburg, Germany 1 item	1916-c.1918
C DIBO/4	Shows a prisoner of war in camp with cooking utensils. Humphrey Watson is back row, third from the right. Postcard is addressed to Mrs. H Watson of 62 Devon Street, from H. Watson, Able-Seaman, ss Aaro, Brandenburg, Germany 1 item	1916-c.1918
C DIBO/5	Shows a group of prisoners of war outside a wooden building. Humphrey Watson is front row, third from the right. Includes four men in Wilson Line jumpers. 1 item	10 Dec 1916
C DIBO/6	Shows a group of prisoners of war outside a wooden building. Humphrey Watson far right. 1 item	1916-c.1918
C DIBO/7	Prisoner of war compound football team. 1 item	1916-1917
C DIBO/8	Prisoners of war in their hut posing for photograph. Duplicate of C DIBO/9 1 item	1916-c.1918
C DIBO/9	Prisoners of war in their hut posing for photograph. Duplicate of C DIBO/8 1 item	1916-c.1918
C DIBO/10	Prisoners of war in a Jewish funeral procession. It appears to be the funeral as shown in C DIBO/11 1 item	1916-c.1918
C DIBO/11	Prisoners of war at a funeral service. It appears to be the funeral as shown in C DIBO/10 1 item	1916-c.1918