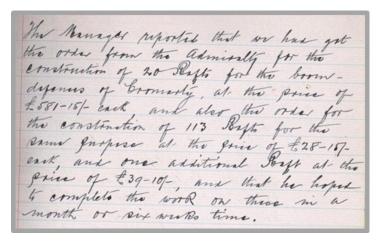
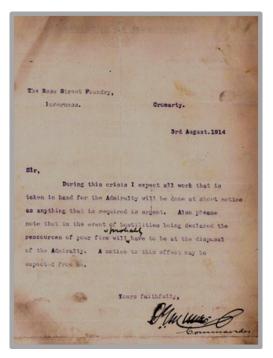
TALES FROM THE GREAT WAR: THE ROSE STREET FOUNDRY AND ENGINEERING COMPANY



Although hostilities were not declared until 11:00pm on August 4th, the Directors of the Rose Street Foundry and Engineering Company had earlier that day received a memo from the Commander of the Naval Base at Cromarty, informing them that all Admiralty work was to be done at short notice as anything required was urgent.

"Also please note that in the event of hostilities being declared the resources of your firm will probably have to be at the disposal of the Admiralty".





One month later, the Manager reported the first Admiralty orders for the construction of rafts for the boom defences at Cromarty, had been received and that the work would be completed in a month or six weeks' time.

Admiralty work building rafts, steam-pinnaces and other small vessels, made for a healthy order book and workers at Thornbush Slipway were kept busy for the duration of the War. The slipway and its associated workshops were extended to cope with this demand.



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At the Rose Street premises the workforce was busy producing mine-sinkers, submersible electric motors and saw-benches for the Canadian Timber Corps.



Despite this the Directors felt that the Company's profile would be further enhanced if "Munitions of War were to be manufactured in the Highland Capital" and in July 1915 approached the Ministry of Munitions to this effect. The request was denied on the grounds that the Company was already employed on Admiralty work.



Among the photographs held at the Archive Centre is one of a group of females captioned "R. S. F. Munitions Workers, 1918". All women engaged on war work were entitled to wear a badge denoting this status and were known collectively as "munitions workers". These women were employed in the making of minesinkers; they were laid off in September 1918 when the initial order of 1000 was completed.

After WWI, The Rose Street Foundry diversified into the design and manufacture of welding equipment and became known as Al Welders.