



**How did trade blockades in World War One cause starvation in Lebanon?**

**Narrated by Carine Torbey**

### **5. Civilians play their part**

Amid all the misery, there were still some who could help. Several soup kitchens opened to feed hungry mouths.

Mariam Cortas was a teacher from the village of Broumana. In 1916, she and a team of helpers began cooking for women and children.

What Mariam started here at home went on to feed at least 1500 people in Romana and the neighbouring villages every day.

[Sami Cortas – Mariam's grandson] – It was a joint effort by the women in the village, who used to come out here, do the cooking, and whatever it took to prepare the food. Lots of people used to come with their pots and pans, usually women, to get some food for the children. It was a very pathetic sight to see, and this is what she remembers. It wasn't a very pleasant time.