



World War 1 1914-1918 Centenary

WW1 Timeline

This World War 1 timeline will cover all the key WW1 dates all the way from the start to the end of the war.

1914

28 June: Franz Ferdinand (Archduke of Austria) is assassinated in Sarajevo.

28 July: Austria declares war with Serbia.

1 August: Germany declares war with Russia.

3 August: Germany declares war with France. On the same day the country's armed forces invade Belgium.

4 August: Britain declares war with Germany.

7 August: The British Expeditionary Force (BEF) arrives in France. Two weeks later they are defeated by the German Army at the Battle of the Frontiers.

18 October: the first Battle of Ypres begins

29 October: trench warfare is beginning to dominate across the Western Front. Turkey enter the war on the German side.

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1915

25 April: Allied forces land in Gallipoli (Turkey)

23 May: Italy declares war on German and Austrian and enters the war on the side of the Allies.

5 August: Germany captures Warsaw (the Polish capital) from Russian forces.

19 December: the Allies begin their evacuation of Gallipoli. The campaign is a disaster and more than 44,000 Allied soldiers are killed.

1916

27 January: Britain introduces military conscription.

1 July: The Battle of the Somme begins. In just 4 months the British suffered around 420,000 casualties the French had 200,000 but the Germans suffered the most coming away with 500,000 casualties.

7 December: David Lloyd George becomes the new Prime Minister of Britain.

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1917

6 April: the United States enter the conflict by declaring war on Germany.

16 April: A major French offensive on the Western Front is unsuccessful.

6 November: Britain launches a major offensive on the Western Front and their forces begin to make some progress. Later that month British tanks are victorious at the Battle of Cambrai.

5 December: Germany and Russia sign armistice agreement.

9 December: British troops capture Jerusalem from Turkish forces.

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1918

3 March: The treaty of Brest-Litovsk is signed with officially brings an end to the war between Russia and Germany.

21 March: German forces make a breakthrough on the Somme.

9 April: A German offensive begins at Flanders.

8 August: A crucial Allied advance is successful.

4 October: Germany ask the Allies to sign an armistice agreement.

30 October: Turkey surrender by signing the Armistice of Mudros.

3 November: Austria-Hungary make peace.

9 November: Kaiser William II of Germany abdicates and Germany is declared a republic.

11 November: Germany sign armistice agreement and the First World War is officially ended. Fighting on the Western Front ceases at 11 am.

BRITISH RESPONSE TO THE OUTBREAK OF WAR, AUGUST 1914



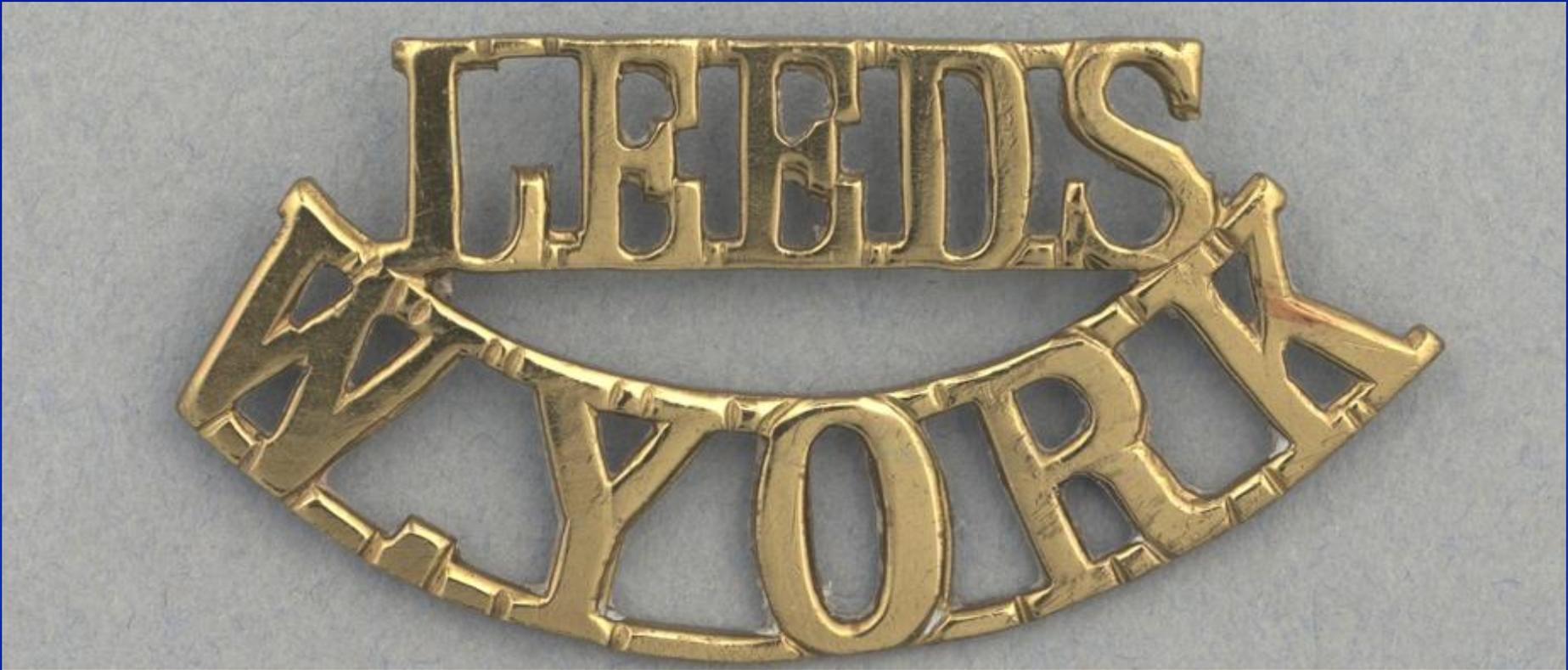
The First World War began in August 1914. No one knew what kind of war it was going to be or how long it would last, but men rushed to join up and go to war. This photograph shows recruits at the Whitehall Recruiting Office in London.

A DISMOUNTED CAVALRY DRAFT OF THE 1ST LIFE GUARDS



In Britain over one million men had volunteered to fight by December 1914. By the end of the war more than four years later, almost one quarter of the total male population had served in the armed forces.

LEEDS PALS – SHOULDER BADGE



Many men were encouraged to sign up with their friends and colleagues with the promise that those who 'joined together should serve together'. This led to what was known as 'Pals' battalions.

War in Short Pants



The First World War was more than just trenches and mustard gas. For the first time in history, the entire society was under arms as the war dominated every aspect of daily life. Even children were affected as, for many of them, the world changed when their fathers were suddenly gone or when they had to flee their familiar surroundings. And even through seemingly innocent channels like literature, toys and colouring books, the Great War entered their little worlds.

Until the early 20th century, children were regarded as (and treated as) miniature adults, as a standard segment of society. This changed with the war, for it was during this first global conflagration that children began to be regarded as individual subjects who could be politically manipulated. Thus, children began to play an important role in the wartime press. The Western nations found it necessary and even useful to involve children in the 'glory' of the battlefields. To this end, the same techniques and narrative forms that children had enjoyed in peacetime were used, including comic strips, adventure novels, animal stories, colouring books and toys. In this way the destructive effects of war were inflicted specifically on children as well as on adult society.

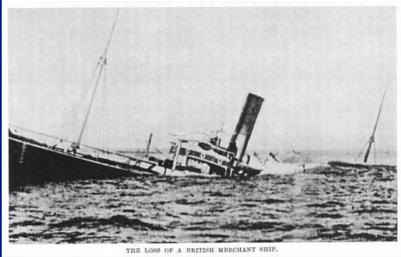
The Christmas Truce of 1914



The Christmas season of 1914 saw a sudden ceasefire during which German, British, French and Belgian soldiers fraternised with each other.

At various places along the front line Christmas greetings and presents were exchanged, carols were sung and a football match was even played near Mesen.

Merchant Shipping



As Britain is an island isolated from mainland Europe they were particularly depended on resources transported over the sea.

German U-Boats were extremely effective against merchant ships, hindering the allies supply line. Food and other essential items became short in supply.

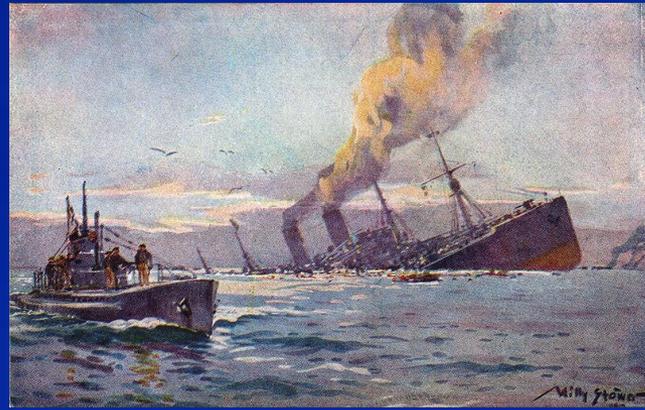
50% all British merchant shipping was sunk by the German U-boat campaign over the course of the war.

How the Merchant ships defeated the U-Boats

The U-boat threat was eventually conquered by:

- Grouping together a large number merchant vessels into a defensive convoy for better protection.
- Advances in early sonar technology.
- Increased use of aircraft to find and track German U-boats.
- The extra naval presence brought by the entry on the United States into the war in April 1917.

WW1 Submarines



In the First World War military submarines made a significant impact for the first time. The German U-Boats enjoyed a great deal of success and were responsible for destroying around half of all the food and supplies transported by the British Merchant Navy.

U-Boats

U- Boat is an abbreviation of 'unterseeboot', which when translated into English means 'undersea boat'.

When the First World War began the German armed forces had 29 U-Boats at their disposal. In the first 10 weeks of the conflict they sank five British cruisers.

Between October 1916 and January 1917 a grand total of 1.4 million tons of allied shipping was lost to the U-Boats.

These losses were eventually curtailed when the allies introduced escorted convoys with merchant ships surrounded by military vessels.

During WW1 Germany built 360 U-Boat submarines, 178 of which were lost. In total they were responsible for the loss of more than 11 million tons of allied shipping.

WW1 BORTH CAPTAINS

Captain David Thomas b.1870, of London Cottage, Borth, was for a time in the orient where he often met up with Captain John Davies of Maesteg House, Borth.



Captain John Davies

Captain Thomas was employed by a company in Australia when World War 1 broke out. He took command of the S.S. Kinross, bound for the U.K. As he approached British waters in May of 1917, a German submarine ordered them to the boats and sank their vessel.

He and his crew landed safely at St Ives, Cornwall. Captain Thomas went on to command the S.S. Seistan from 1921-24, and in the 1930's he was master of the S.S. New Mathilde.

Loss of the SS Cadeby



SS CADEBY, 1,130grt, 27th May 1915, 20 miles SW by S from Wolf Rock, captured by submarine, sunk by gunfire.

Loss of the "SS Cadeby". The steamer "SS Cadeby", of 1,130 tons, built in 1892, registered at Hull, the property of the Cadeby Steamship Company, of Glasgow, was sunk by shell fire by a German submarine off the Scillies on Thursday afternoon of last week when on a voyage from Oporto to Cardiff with a cargo of pitwood.

The vessel was commanded by **Captain Morgan Hugh Jones, Glendower**, and amongst the crew of sixteen were **Messrs John D. Thomas, Eversleigh**, and **D Jenkins, of Rock House, Borth**. There were on board four passengers—Mr. J. T. Wattison, his wife, a two and half year old boy, and a Portuguese girl coming home on holiday.

All on board were saved through the services of the Penzance motor boat. "Bonafide" which picked up the crew and passengers from the vessels two boats. They were tossed about in a strong sea and by that time their vessel had disappeared.

They were made as comfortable as possible and brought in to Newlyn, Cornwall arriving at 1-30 a.m., where they were taken to the Ship Institute.

When the submarine was some distance off the "Cadeby," the commander of the submarine signalled Captain Jones to take to the boats immediately and at once commenced firing, while those on board were preparing to leave the doomed vessel. During the actual launching of the two boats firing was suspended; but recommenced as soon as they left the vessel.

The vessel at the time was flying the white ensign. Which became a mark for the German pirates: but though many attempts were made to lower the flag the vessel sank with the ensign still flying, to the chagrin of the pirates.

From twenty to thirty shots were fired one of the earliest penetrating the bunkers. It was at 3-30 that the Germans overhauled the "Cadeby" and at 5-15 the "Bonafide" rescued the crew from the prospect of spending the night in open boats; in a choppy sea.

The boats were then allowed to drift away. The rescued were extremely grateful to the officers and crew of the "Bonafide" for their kindness and assistance. The local men reached home on Saturday morning, little the worse for their adventure.

S. S. HEATHPARK



This recently built vessel, owned by the Denholm Brothers, Greenock, was torpedoed at 3 am, on the 5th October 1918, just off the coast near Bilbao, with the loss of all 27 crew members.

Amongst those who perished were Borth men **Captain Hugh Jones, Seaview, David Llewelyn Lewis, bosun, of Dalston House, David Kenneth Jones deck boy, Glanmor House**, who was the captain's nephew and also another relative William Llewelyn Roberts.

Only the body of Captain Jones was recovered by the fishing vessel Isabelita, of Ondarroa. He was buried in that little Basque fishing village, but in 1925 his body was re-buried at Bilbao by the Commonwealth Graves Commission.

Captain Hugh Jones



Captain Hugh Jones



S. S. HEATHPARK



Crew of the Heathpark

A train of events that began in September 1918 was to seal Captain Hugh Jones's fate before the end of that year.

The German U-boat, U91, under the command of Captain Von Glasenapp went on a deadly voyage between 15th September and the end of October, 1918.

It sailed from Heligoland to the Hebrides then down the coasts of France and Spain, and returned to Germany through the Pentland Firth.

During its murderous mission, it hunted down and sank twelve vessels; some of which were from neutral countries.

Amongst them were the small French sailing vessels *Therese et Marth*, *Ave Maris Stella*, *Maria Emmanuel*, *Maja* and the *Pierre*, as well as Spanish steamer *Mercedes*, the Portuguese steamer *Cazengo*, the Norwegian steamer *Luksefjell*, and tragically for three Borth families the 1,963 ton *S.S. Heathpark*, which was carrying iron ore from Bilbao to Maryport in Cumbria.

The Sinking of S.S. Heathpark

It was three o'clock in the morning of October 5th 1918 and though the world did not know it, the Great War had little more than a month to run. Only a few more men had now to die. On board the 1,963 tonne British steamer "Heathpark", **Captain Hugh Jones of Surrey House Borth** & his crew were bringing their boat home in convoy from Bilbao, heavy with iron ore for their country's war effort.

There were five of them in the convoy, including the Spanish steamer "Mercedes" 2,164 tonne and a Norwegian vessel, and they had sailed from Bilbao at 10.00 p.m. on the previous day, hugging the coast to avoid the attentions of German submarines.

That was the last that was heard of them. In that night of ruthless destruction all five ships disappeared. From the Spanish, there were three survivors, who told of the submarine they had seen before the torpedoes struck. The other Borth persons on Heathpark were **David L Lewis aged 26 of Dalston House & David Kenneth Jones aged 16 of Glanmore House**. Four days later, on October 9th, four miles off the little port of Gustaria, a fishing boat saw a body, equipped with a lifebelt floating in the sea, picked it up and landed it the same day at Ondarroa, a Basque fishing village. Captain Hugh Jones had come to his last port.

With great reverence & respect the fishing village of Ondarroa found him a resting place in the cemetery there, after an inquiry, conducted by two British Vice-Consuls, had identified him and dealt with his personnel effects.

At a ceremony in the Sailors Institute in June 1919, the British Government represented by the vice-consul, Mr James Inns, made monetary gifts to all the members of the crew and presented a framed photograph of Captain Hugh Jones with the caption: "Hugh Jones Captain of the English steamship "Heathpark," torpedoed off the east coast on October 5th 1918.

This photograph is dedicated to the crew of the fishing smack 'Isabelita for recovering his body, which lies in the cemetery of Ondarroa." After distributing the gifts, Mr Inns thanked the crew "in the name of the family of the heroic sailor who, in fulfilling his duty, would have disappeared in the depths of the ocean like his companions were it not for the conduct of the fishermen."

Captain Hugh Jones was exhumed and re buried in Bilbao British Protestant cemetery in July 1925. This cemetery, created in 1775, ceased to be used as a cemetery in 1929, and all those buried there were removed to a new site in Lujua.

And there, splendidly cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission a new gravestone was erected which was inscribed with the badge of the Mercantile Marine and below it the words :- "Master Hugh Jones, S.S."Heathpark" 5th October 1918, Age 49. Died for King and Country. Rest in Peace. Never Forgotten."

Captain Hugh Jones Story By K M Evans

I am the youngest daughter of Captain Hugh & Ann Jones of Surrey House Borth. My father was born on 31st October 1874 & had been connected with the sea all of his working life.

I did not know my father as he drowned on the 5th October 1918 & I was born the 2nd September 1917.

My elder sister Anna Jane Jones was born on the 20th April 1909 & she died on 1st March 1959 at Bow Street and she could remember my father.

I married Ronald Evans 11th April 1941 at Soar Chapel Borth & since our marriage we have been trying to find out the circumstances how my father died.

My eldest son Hugh was born in Borth in 1943 has along with my husband been very interested in the Captain Hugh Jones story.

In 1960 Ronald Evans my husband, me (Kathleen Evans nee Jones) & our two sons Hugh & Neil left Southampton on route for Vigo, Spain.

We motored up through Spain to Bilbao & paid a visit to my father's grave, the first visit from any member of his family since he was buried there.

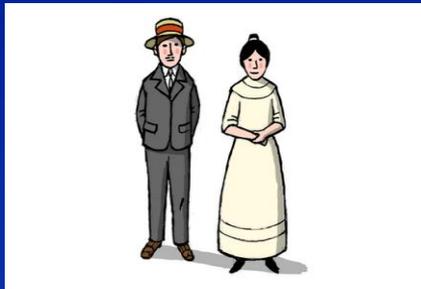
The Evans family with the 3 Spanish fishermen who found Captain Hugh Jones's body



Trades and Profession's of the 1900s



Butcher & Butcher's Boy



Grocer & assistant



Teashop manager staff



Recruitment office



Paper Boy



Police Man



Gas Lamp lighter

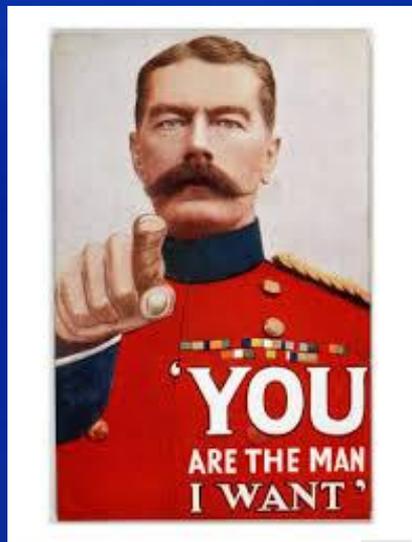
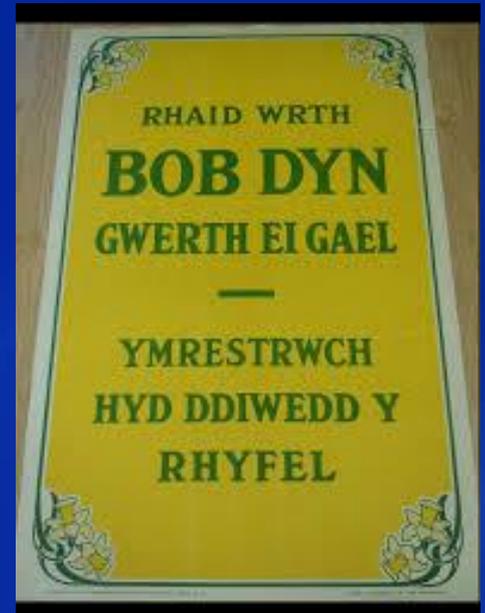
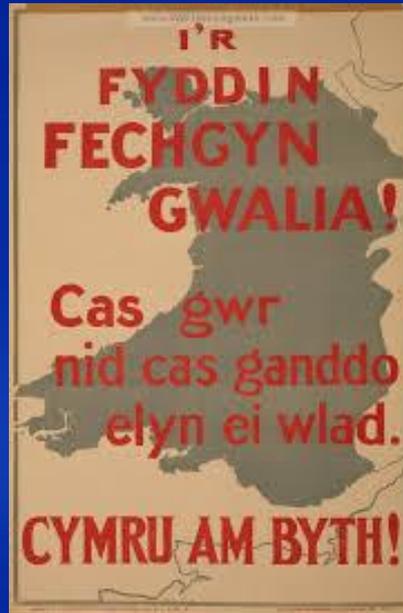
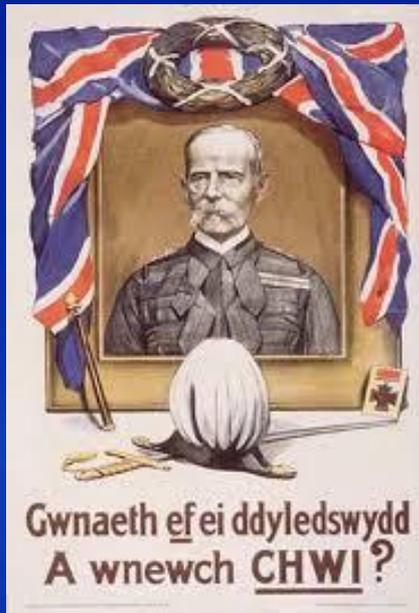
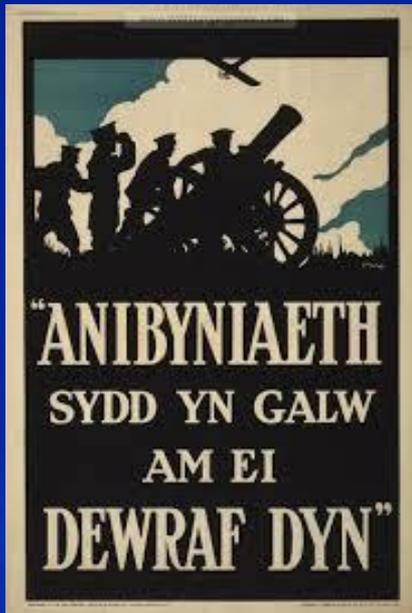


Village Community



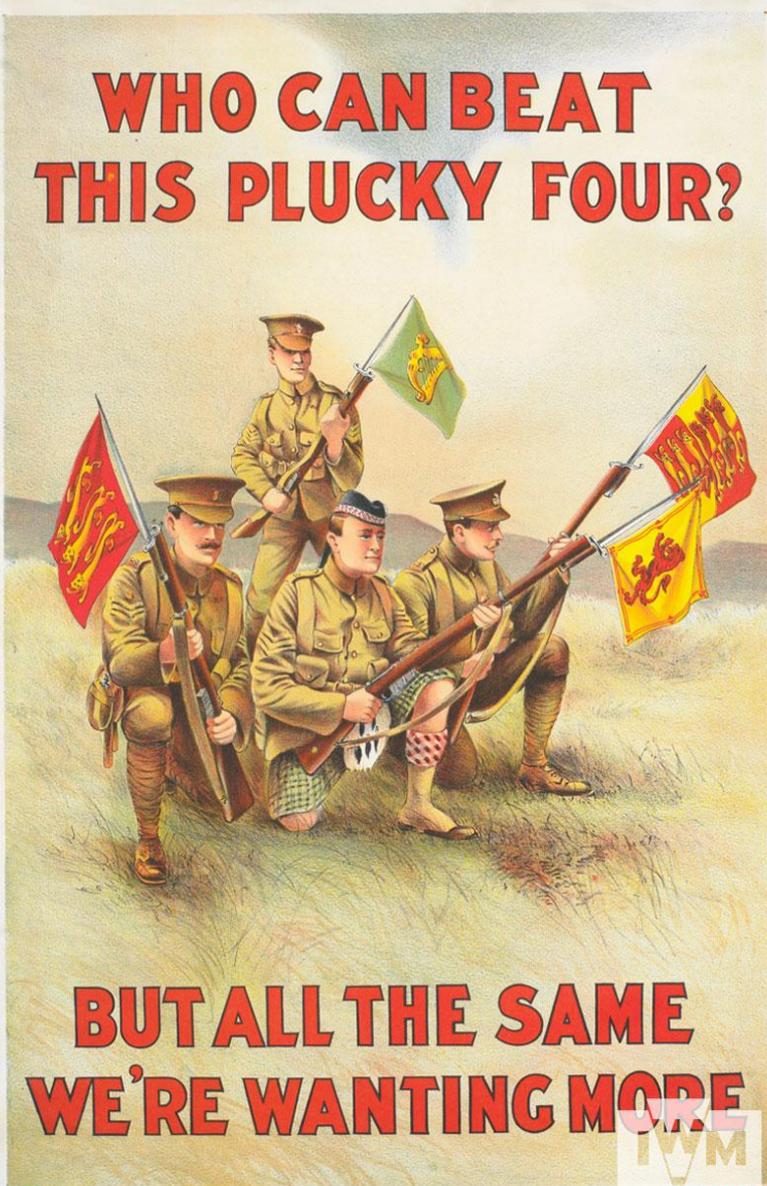
High Street

WW1 Recruiting Posters



WW1 Recruiting Posters

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THIS PLUCKY FOUR?**



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WE'RE WANTING MORE**

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FORWARD!



**Forward to Victory
ENLIST NOW**

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WW1 Recruiting Posters



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QUEBEC RIFLES

171st Overseas Battalion
C. E. F.

Someone is waiting for you at Headquarters
72½ St. Peter Street or Y.M.C.A. Barracks

L'Association Civile de Recrutement
du District de Québec



FOR THE GLORY OF IRELAND



WILL YOU GO OR MUST I?



HELY'S LIMITED, LITHO, DUBLIN, P.661.

WW1 BORTH NEWS 1914

18th September 1914

Special Constables —On Saturday evening a meeting was convened for the purpose of enrolling special constables. A large muster attended and sixty-four special constables were enrolled.

Mr R E Jones presided as well as Sergeant Jones Talybont. The Chief Constable and **P.C. Griffiths, Borth**. The Chairman explained the object of the meeting, and speeches were made by Mr. F. R. Roberts, Aberystwyth; the **Rev. J. C. Evans, C.M. minister, Borth**; Mr. W. T. Lewis, rural district councillor Mr. W. Davies, Battersea, L.C.C.; and **Mr Joseph Morgan, C.M., Borth**.

The Chairman invited those who had not already signed and were anxious to do so to come forward, and amidst great enthusiasm a great number presented themselves and were sworn in.

Major Fear drilled two squads for about two hours and expressed pleasure at the number enrolled, remarking that he was more than satisfied with the progress made. The meeting separated after singing "God Save the King."

9th October 1914

Blankets.—Mrs. Delia Porta, of Church Stretton. has collected forty-one blankets from her friends among the inhabitants of **Borth** and forwarded them to the Tower of London for the use of the soldiers at the front.

WW1 FACTS & PICTURES



Tear gas was first used in WW I



Tanks were first used during the Battle of Flanders-Courcelette (1918)



Artillery barrage could be heard for hundreds of miles



WW1 FACTS & INFORMATION

- World War 1 began on July 28, 1914 and lasted until November 11, 1918. Differences in foreign policies were to blame, although the immediate cause was the assassination of Austria's Archduke Ferdinand.
- The two main sides were the Allies, which included France, Great Britain and Russia; and Germany and Austria-Hungary. In total, 30 countries were involved in the conflict. Italy, once part of the Triple Alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary, fought on the side of the Allies.
- Soldiers fought largely in trenches during the war, and thousands suffered from stress, known as shell-shock. The British and French trenches were often squalid, whereas the German trenches were almost luxurious in comparison, with bunks and decent cooking facilities.
- By the end of WW1, over 9 million soldiers had been killed, and another 21 million wounded. Over a million soldiers were killed in the infamous Battle of the Somme alone, including about 30,000 in just one day.
- Around 11 percent of the population of France was killed or wounded during the war. About 116,000 Americans were killed, even though the US was only in the war for about 7 months.

WW1 FACTS & INFORMATION

- During World War 1, dogs were used to carry messages in capsules attached to their body. Dogs also carried and placed telegraph wires in important areas.
- Pigeons were also used during the war. About 500,000 pigeons were regularly dropped into enemy lines by parachute, and then sent back with messages.
- On Christmas Eve, 1914, both sides declared an unofficial truce and sung Christmas carols to each other. A football match was played in no-man's land (the area between the German and British) trenches, and German and British soldiers exchanged food and souvenirs. The following Christmas, sentries on both sides had orders to shoot any soldier who did this.
- Cannons and artillery were often extremely loud. In 1917, the explosives used to destroy a bridge in France could be heard over 130 miles away in London.
- Many new weapons were invented or first used during World War 1. Big Bertha was one of the most famous; it was a 48 ton gun capable of firing a shell over 9 miles. It took 200 men several hours to assemble the gun.
- Tanks were so called because of early attempts to disguise them as water tanks. They were also known as male and female tanks; male tanks had cannons and female tanks had machine guns.

Borth News 12th January 1917

ON FURLOUGH.—Seaman Richard Davies, Wesleyan-place, Borth is home on short furlough. Private J. Evans (son of the Rev. J. C. Evans), who has been wounded has come home from hospital. Sapper Evan Hugh Davies Ballarat, Borth is also home after thirteen months active service. Sapper Davies has seen many Borth men in France.

SALE.- A sale was held in the Reading Room on Saturday, books being sold in lots to the inhabitants. If another reading room be established, the buyers would be willing to return the books.

TORPEDOED.—Mr. R. Ellis, Caron House, Borth whose ship the S.S "Lady Carrington," was torpedoed, left on Monday for Barry to join another ship.

SOUVENIR.—Corporal Howard Roberts, the Crib, Borth has brought credit on himself and on Borth by having had so many of his black and white sketches inserted in the souvenir of the Welsh Division which was completed in the trenches. The local agent for these souvenirs in Borth is Mr. R. Williams Drug Stores, Borth

DEPARTURE.—Private D. Hughes, only son of Mr and Mrs D Hughes, Boston House, Borth departed last week for France.

TORPEDOED.—Mr Evan J Rees, son of Mrs. Captain Hugh Rees, head cook on the "Bretualda," has come home. His ship was torpedoed near Malta and Mr. Rees was in the water for over half an hour. Mr. Rees intends going back to sea when an opportunity occurs.

Borth News 15th June 1917

Borth sailors have been ill-fated this week for three of their ships have been torpedoed. In the case of the "Cheltonian" the master **Captain Enos of Aberystwyth, who is a native of Borth**, was taken prisoner, but the crew which included **Mr. Enoch Davies, chief engineer, Mr H. L. Williams, Livonian House, Borth and Mr. L. J. Herbert, Gerydon, Borth** were saved and landed at Marseilles.

It is the second time **Mr. Enoch Davies's** ship has been torpedoed, and **Mr. L. J. Herbert** was on his first voyage. **Mr T. R. Morris** has arrived from Swansea, his ship having been torpedoed. He was in the captain's boat, which was picked up. but the other boat has not yet been heard of.

News has also been received that **Capt. J. Davies, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Davies, Ivanhoe, Borth** has landed at Newhaven. His ship was torpedoed, but all the crew were saved. **Captain David Thomas** left on Tuesday to re- turn to Freemantle.

Lovers of Uppingham path will be grateful to **Mrs. Watkin, Post Office, Borth** and **Mrs. Captain Lewis, Glanydon, Borth** for undertaking to put the path in order and to collect towards payment of arrears of rent. The path is a pleasant memento of Uppingham School's visit to Borth in 1877, when the members opened the path in commemoration of their visit.

Amongst those home on leave this week are **Stoker J. Tibbot** who has twelve days and is looking well and hearty, and **Pte. Wm. Henry Evans, Borth** who came home on Saturday. Private Evans has seen a good deal of the recent fighting near Ypres and though he has been out over a year he has not received a scratch.

News has been received that **Pte. Gwilym Jones, son of the Rev. O. Jones**, is now progressing after having been wounded at Salonica.

Splendid hauls of fish have been made lately in the bay, the catch including plaice, bass, and turbot.

On Sunday the pulpit at Soar was occupied by Professor Levi. His sermon in the evening was directed towards the war. its direct effects and probable consequences. Mr. Jenkin James is expected at Libanus next Sunday.

Nurse Edith Cavell



Edith Cavell was the World War I British nurse who is celebrated for saving the lives of soldiers in Brussels from all sides without distinction. She and Belgian and French colleagues helped over 200 Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium.

She was arrested, tried with 33 others by a German military court, found guilty of 'assisting men to the enemy' and shot by a German firing squad on October 12 1915.

HEROIC BORTH SAILOR'



Salving Torpedoed Vessel 26th December 1915

When the SS Van Stirum a 1,990-ton steamer, was nearing Liverpool last Christmas Day she was attacked by two enemy submarines. After an attempt to escape the captain decided to abandon his ship and took to the boats. Two men were left on board to lower the boats, but one was killed owing to the submarine firing a torpedo. Five shells were then fired at the ship. Despite her damage, the ship remained afloat.

On Christmas Day one of the patrol vessels of the Auxiliary Fleet which had discovered the SS Van Stirum' and lowered a boat with four hands, of whom **Seaman Richard Davies, Borth**, was one, to tow the ship into port.

The undertaking was full of danger as enormous seas were breaking over and the vessel was lurching heavily. According to an article written by Mr. Alfred Noyes, the four brave men pulled to the side and clambered aboard. No sooner had the last man got up than the boat was smashed to pieces against the ship's side and immediately sank.

They found that the vessel had been torpedoed in the engine room. The stokeholds and engine rooms were full of water. On entering the saloon they saw the tables set for the Christmas dinner.

The party successfully set the hawser from the port bow to the attendant trawler; but as the steering gear had been jammed she became uncontrollable. Meanwhile the gallant four remained at their post on board. The lieutenant in charge of the trawler made up his mind that he would save them. No sooner had the boat been hauled alongside than the "Van Stirum" suddenly rolled over and went down.

The four men managed to slide down the ship's side in time, cut the boat adrift, and push clear. A letter has been received from the Admiralty thanking Seaman Davies for his excellent work.

WW1 TANK



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WW1 TRENCH WARFARE



WW1 PICTURES



Royal Marine Artillery crew loading a 15-inch howitzer near Menin Road during the third Battle of Ypres.



The Girl Behind the Gun

The War Budget, December 30th, 1916.

A black and white photograph of a woman, identified as Tommy Atkins, working in a munitions factory. She is wearing a dark dress and is focused on her task, which involves handling shell cases. The background shows rows of shell cases and other workers in the distance.

The Girl Tommy Atkins left behind-him has enlisted in the great Munition Corps with "barracks" all over the country. There are now few processes in shell and cartridge manufacture with which women cannot be trusted. Above, percussion caps are being fitted, and below is a section of the testing room, where girls are gauging the shell cases as they pass along on a travelling belt.

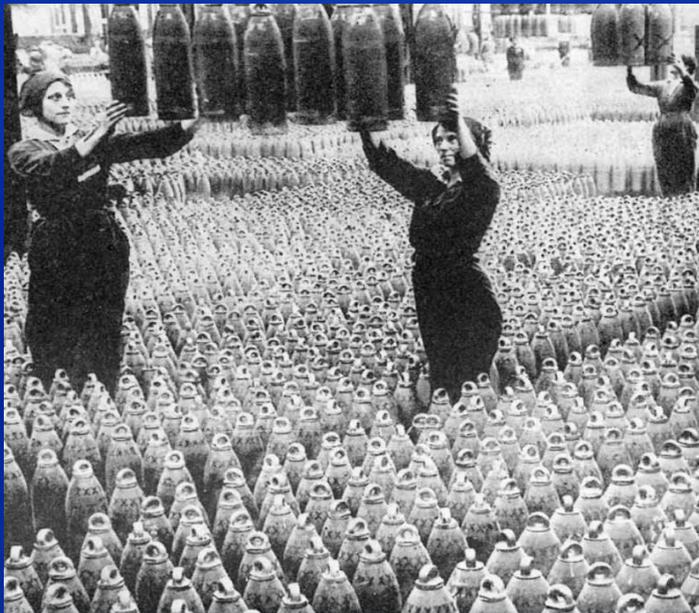
A black and white photograph showing a long line of women working in a testing room. They are seated at a long table, and a travelling belt is moving along the table, carrying shell cases. The women are focused on their work, and the room is filled with rows of shell cases.

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WW1 PICTURES



British troops of the 4th East Lancashire Regiment in trenches near Nieuport Bains



A dog fight



A dogfight, or dog fight, is a form of engagement between fighter aircraft; in particular, combat of manoeuvre at short range, where each side is aware of the other's presence. Dogfighting first appeared during World War I,

Flanders Poppy Fields



The sight of these delicate, vibrant red flowers growing on the shattered ground caught the attention of a Canadian soldier by the name of John McCrae. He noticed how they had sprung up in the disturbed ground of the burials around the artillery position he was in. It was during the warm days of early May 1915 when he found himself with his artillery brigade near to the Ypres-Yser canal. He is believed to have composed a poem following the death of a friend at that time. The first lines of the poem have become some of the most famous lines written in relation to the First World War.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

By John McCrae May 1915

WW1 REMEMBRANCE DAY FACTS

What is Remembrance Day?

- Remembrance Day is a memorial day which take place every year so that countries in the Commonwealth can remember members of the armed forces who have lost their lives serving their country.



When is Remembrance Day?

- Remembrance Day is always 11th November (11/11). It was on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, that combat in World War 1 came to an end in 1918. Remembrance Day has been observed since 1919.

Why do we wear poppies on Remembrance Day?

- The poppy was one of the first flowers to bloom on the battlefields of Flanders during World War 1. Their bright red colour symbolised the blood shed during the horrific conflict, but also the hope of new life, and the poppy became the symbol of Remembrance Day.
- The Remembrance Poppy has been used as a symbol since 1920. Today, poppies are worn on clothing in the days leading up to Remembrance Day, and poppy wreaths are placed on war memorials. This is why Remembrance Day is often known as Poppy Day.
- In the UK, poppies can be bought from The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The money raised goes to help veterans of the armed services.

100-year mystery of unidentified sailor washed ashore at last.

20th March 2014

A SAILOR who died in a shipwreck off the coast of Borth during the Great War has finally been identified by local historians. For almost 100 years, the bodies of three unidentified sailors washed ashore have lain in a grave, marked as unknown, in St Matthew's Churchyard, Borth.

Research by former school teacher, Joyce Berryman and former journalist, Betty Horton, has identified one of the men. And the grave, long neglected and overgrown, has become an official war grave, tended and cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The story of Prosper Charles Colman, a Belgian-born sailor, and how he came to be buried in Borth was pieced together with the help of the National Library, old copies of the Cambrian News, British Shipwreck records and German Naval records



Seven miles East/North-East of the Arklow light vessel, the Memphian was torpedoed by U-boat 96 captained by Kapitan Lieutenant Heinrich Jeb. Thirty-two crew members were lost. Wreckage and bodies washed up along the Cambrian coast. A few were identified but most lie in graves marked as unknown at the locations where they were found, their names recorded as being lost at sea on the Tower Hill Memorial, London.

On 26th October 1917 Edward Jones, a platelayer at the Cambrian News discovered a body while walking from Tre'r-ddôl towards Glandyfi. The body, wearing a lifebelt, was lying face down. Later, Police Sergeant Thomas, from Taliesin, told an inquest that in the pockets of the trousers was a purse containing 18/7d and in the coat pocket a discharge book with five certificates from the SS Memphian.

On the same day Colman was found, another body was discovered on the beach at Borth. The body was dressed only in underwear. It was thought to be about 28 years old. Both men, together with a third sailor, whose body had been washed ashore the previous year, were buried in St Matthew's Churchyard. Prosper Colman was a fireman on the Memphian. Born at Ostend on 20th December 1890 and married to Poldine Colman Caluco who, at the time of his death, lived in Antwerp. Attempts to trace decedents have so far failed.

The grave is not the only association Borth has with the SS Memphian. Wreckage from the ship was strewn all along the coast. The cargo was bales of cork, a valuable commodity at the time.

Two local men, James Davies, David Davies and 14-year-old Harry Jones, set out salvaging. Weather conditions turned bad and, although their boat was washed ashore, none of them were ever seen again.

Their names are on Borth War Memorial.

12 PAINTINGS OF LIFE ALONG THE WESTERN FRONT

1. A STREET IN ARRAS



A Street in Arras, 1918, by John Singer Sargent. Scottish infantrymen rest against the exterior wall of a shell-damaged building in Arras.

2. OPPI WOOD



Oppy Wood, 1917. Evening, 1918, by John Nash. Two infantrymen stand in a trench next to a dug-out entrance, one of them on the firestep looking over the parapet into no man's land.

3. THE CAPTIVE



The Captive, 1918, by Colin Gill. A German prisoner and his British captor rest in a communication trench.

4. RELIEFS AT DAWN



Reliefs at Dawn, 1917, by CRW Nevinson. British soldiers, wearing full kit, walk through a trench at dawn.

5. AN INCIDENT ON THE WESTERN FRONT



An Incident on the Western Front, 1918, by Louis Weirter. A dogfight involving five aircraft plays out over the countryside of the Western Front.

6. AN ADVANCED DRESSING STATION IN FRANCE



An Advanced Dressing Station in France, 1918, by Henry Tonks. Casualties are examined and treated at a dressing station next to a ruined church.

7. A HOWITZER FIRING



A Howitzer Firing, 1918, by Paul Nash. Four British artillerymen, standing beneath a canopy of camouflage netting, fire a Howitzer gun.

8. THE MASCOT OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS



The Mascot of the Coldstream Guards, 1917, by William Orpen. A soldier rests in a tent, his washing hanging to dry in the sun. A small white goat stands outside the tent in the sunshine.

9. THE GUNS



The Guns, by Henri Lucien Cheffer. A French gun team make adjustments to the elevation of a heavy artillery gun mounted on a railway carriage.

10. CRASHED AEROPLANE



Crashed Aeroplane, 1918, by John Singer Sargent. Two farmworkers gather crops, paying little attention to the crashed aircraft in the field behind them.

11. AN OBSERVER



An Observer, 1915, by Edward Handley-Read. A British infantryman on observation duty in a trench looks out into no man's land.

12. YPRES SALIENT, DAWN



Ypres Salient, Dawn, February 1918, by Louis John Ginnett. A view over the devastated landscape of the Ypres salient as the sun rises.

Borth Cliff Top War Memorial Roll of Honour 1914 - 1918



NAMES	MERCHANT NAVY	NAMES	ARMY
THOMAS ARTER	II	THOMAS LEWIS DAVIES	II
BASIL L. DAVIES	II	OSWALD H. FEILDEN	II
THOMAS H. DUTTON	II	ARTHUR FOOTIT	II
WILLIAM J. HUGHES	II	GRUFYDD MORGAN	II
HUGH JAMES	II	NAMES	ROYAL FLYING CORPS
DANIEL EVAN JONES	II	DESMOND M. FILGATE	II
DAVID KENNETH JONES	II	WILLIAM HOPE HODGSON	II
HUGH JONES	II	WILLIAM JOHN JONES	II
DAVID LLEWELYN LEWIS	II	NAME	CANADIAN HIGHLANDERS
JOHN MORGAN LLOYD	II	DAVID JOHN JONES	II
MORGAN MORGANS	II	NAME	ROYAL NAVY RESERVE
THOMAS RICHARDS	II	RICHARD DAVIES	II
LLEWELYN ROBERTS	II	NAMES	SALVAGING IN BORTH BAY
RICHARD REES	II	DAVID DAVIES	II
JOHN WILLIAMS	II	JAMES DAVIES	II
		HENRY JAMES JONES	II

*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them".*