

# Shetland Museum and Archives

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## 1914 - 1918 Studying Shetland and World War One



## Teachers' resource pack

heritage  
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# Studying Shetland and World War One

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The aim of this resource is to give teachers a basic understanding of Shetland during World War One and signpost resources that would be useful when conducting projects into the impact of World War One in the school's area.

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# Chapter 1: Essential Knowledge

Approximately:

- 1500 men served in the Royal Naval Reserve
- 3000 merchant seamen served
- 1000 men served in the army
- 600 men died
- Shetland lost a higher proportion of men than any other British county

There was no air force until 1<sup>st</sup> April 1918; both the army and the navy had their own flying divisions.

In general, men from the countryside served at sea, whilst men from Lerwick served in the army (mostly joining the local regiment the Gordon Highlanders).

Communication with the rest of Britain was by telegraph or mail boats. There were no telephone cables to the mainland, but there was a very, very small phone network within Lerwick of about a dozen phones at local businesses. Phone lines were put in to meet the needs of the armed forces but in a very limited way.

## 1.1 Useful dates

<b>2nd August 1914</b>	RNR men ordered to report headquarters in Lerwick
<b>3rd August 1914</b>	Gordon Highlander reservists to report to Lerwick headquarters
<b>4th August 1914</b>	War declared
<b>February - August 1915</b>	German submarine campaign against Britain
<b>March 1916</b>	Conscription introduced
<b>31st May 1916</b>	Battle of Jutland (sea battle)
<b>13th November 1916</b>	Battle of the Ancre. The single greatest loss of life during any one time for Shetlanders occurred at the Battle of Ancre. 16 were killed and 22 wounded.
<b>February – October 1917</b>	German submarine campaign against Britain
<b>9th April 1917</b>	Battle of Arras

Summer 1918	Rationing introduced
11 <sup>th</sup> November 1918	11am on 11/11/18, Armistice (ceasefire) signed
28 <sup>th</sup> June 1919	Treaty of Versailles signed (peace treaty)

## 1.2 Useful terms and abbreviations

### R.N.R /Royal Naval Reserve

Established in 1862. The R.N.R provided a pool of experienced seamen for use during times of war. The R.N.R was made up of experienced seamen. Most men in Shetland who were/ had been in the merchant ships or fishing boats signed up to the R.N.R as a ready way of making additional money. You got paid a yearly fee and had to attend a couple of weeks training sessions (drills) a year locally (and later south), which you got paid for too. The R.N.R was a section of the Royal Navy, like the territorial army are a section of the regular Army.

### T.A / Territorials/ Territorial Army

Established in 1908 it was similar to today's Territorial Army. Young men volunteered and received military training for a few days a year in the knowledge that in the event of a war, they would become regular full time soldiers. It was mainly Lerwick men that joined it and they were paid a retainer. These young men are commonly referred to in World War One Shetland literature as the Shetland Territorials.

### RFC

The Royal Flying Corps was the air division of the British Army during World War One and supported the army by photographic reconnaissance and directing artillery fire.

### RNAS

Royal Naval Air Service was the air division of the British Navy. Duties included patrolling the coast for enemy ships and submarines and attacking enemy coastal targets. The planes that were used were often seaplanes.

### RAF

The RNAS and RFC were combined on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1918 to form the Royal Air Force. It was a very small section of the armed Forces and flight was still a relatively new and dangerous thing to do.

### Women's Auxiliary Military Services

The British Government began establishing Women's auxiliary military services towards the end of 1916 to free men up from non-combative roles.

### **WRNS: Women's Royal Naval Service**

WRNS was established in 1917. At first women were to free men and included jobs like cleaning, cooking and serving food, but over time, they ended up doing jobs that had been seen as too difficult for women, like telephone operators. There were local WRNS based at the naval base in Lerwick.



**Photo:** SM00063 Women's Royal Naval Service, Naval Base, Harbour Street, Lerwick

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### **WAAC : Women's Army Auxiliary Corps**

WAAC was established in 1917 to free up soldiers from the rear areas for front line service. The jobs women did included cooking, waiting on officers, clerks, telephone operators, store-women, drivers, printers, bakers and cemetery gardeners. They were based at army bases in Britain and in France. In April 1918, in honour of their bravery it was renamed Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (QMAAC).

### **WRAF: Women's Royal Air Force**

WRAF was formed the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1918 when the RAF was founded. Members of the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) worked on air stations belonging to the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). The work was divided into four sections: Clerks and Store women, Household, Technical and Non-Technical. The majority of women were employed as clerks, with specialists such as shorthand typists.

Women in the technical section included highly skilled trades such as tinsmiths, fitters and welders.

## **Mercantile Marine**

Were civilians who served on British ships that carried goods to and from Britain. The merchant fleet suffered heavy losses as they were attacked by enemy ships – around 14, 600 men lost their lives. A convoy system was introduced in 1917 to try and reduce the loss of shipping. Many Shetlanders worked on merchant ships before and during the war. Half the world's merchant shipping was British; The term Merchant Navy was given to these ships by King George V after World War One in honour of the sacrifice of the seamen in the war.

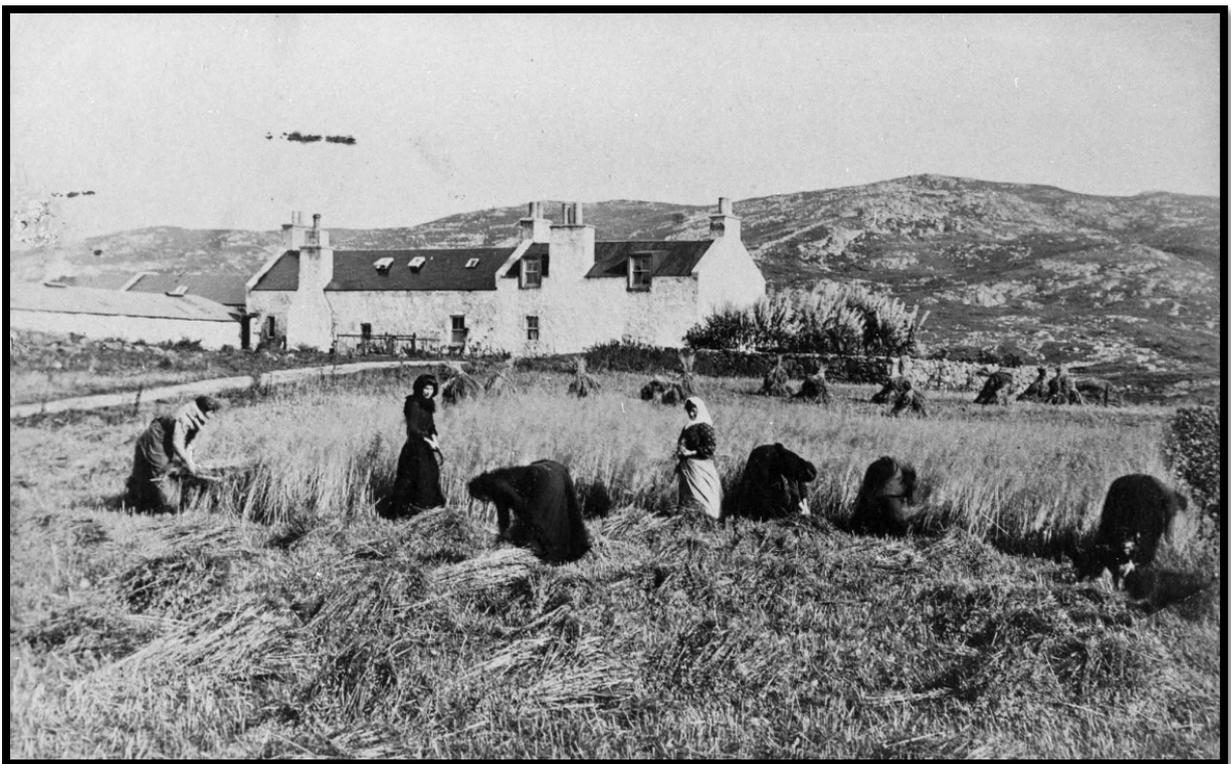
## Chapter 2: What kind of war for Shetlanders?

### 2.1 Introduction

The following information will provide a very basic understanding of World War One and Shetland. It is strongly recommended that for a more in depth overview you read pages 269-278 of Shetland's WW1 Roll of Honour.

### 2.2 What was Shetland like before the outbreak of war?

The vast majority of the population lived in rural areas and were tied to the land and the seasons through crofting. Islanders still grew, reared or caught a large proportion of their own food. Different families within the community or touns had to work together to complete tasks like dellin (digging) fields. Women and girls did a lot of the farm work and knitted goods to barter at shops for credit that they could then buy goods like sugar.



**Photo:** SM00288 - - Women shearing corn at Brouster. Some are cutting the crop, using sickles; others are gathering; others again are making bands.

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Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a move towards Shetlanders' earning money, rather than living off the land and the sea. Improved communications through a regular mail service, telegraph, newspapers and magazines meant that all islanders (not just the wealthy) were aware of new fashions and home improvements. This meant islanders wanted to earn money to buy goods like paraffin lamps, lino for the floor, crockery etc.

Three major income sources for the family are:

- Men's wages from going to sea on merchant ships
- Men's wages from going fishing
- Women selling knitting e.g. socks and shawls

The late 1890s to early 1910s had seen a decline in the fishing industry in Shetland and many men had joined the Mercantile Marine as a result.

Another income source was the Royal Naval Reserve. If you had sea experience from fishing or the merchant fleet then the R.N.R. were keen to sign you up. It would have been easy money for most men.



**Photo:** J00190 - R.N.R. Sailor

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The men got paid a yearly fee and had to attend a couple of weeks training sessions (drills) a year locally (and later south), which you got paid for too. The men knew that they were enlisted to the King and if there was a war they'd be called up to serve

in the naval forces, but this hadn't happened in hundred years so it was not at the forefront of people's minds.

Lerwick and Scalloway had been growing for one hundred or so years before the outbreak of war with people moving to Lerwick and Scalloway for paid work. The men that worked in towns didn't have the sea skills wanted by the R.N.R so many joined the army reserves. Army reservists in Shetland just before the war numbered slightly over 200 and naval reservists around 1400.

## 2.3 The outbreak of war

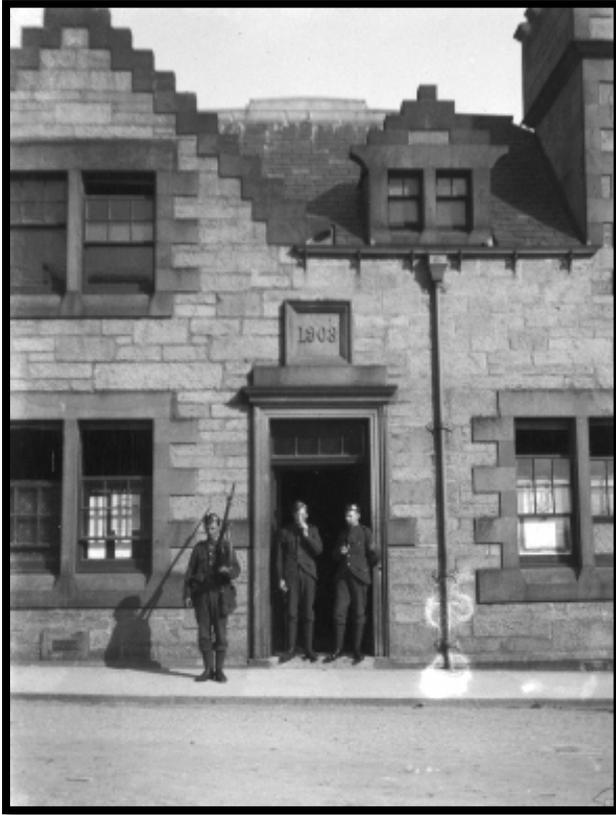
The Royal Naval Reserve were the first Shetlanders to be called up and ordered to report to their headquarters in Lerwick on 2nd August 1914. This was the first time in the history of the R.N.R that men had been called up, emphasising the gravity of the international situation. Hundreds of men poured into Lerwick from nearly every district in Shetland.



**Photo:** - A00042 - Shetland Section, Royal Naval Reserve; Signals Corps, Fort Charlotte

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The next day the call to arms was sent out to the local Territorial force, which belonged to the Gordon Highlanders. They were trained and drilled in Lerwick along with the large number of new recruits. The majority of people believed the war would be over by Christmas and large numbers of Shetlanders joined up to the navy and army during the winter of 1914-1915 so as not to miss out. Men from the country typically joined the R.N.R (1,000 enlisted before February 1915) with men from the town joining the Gordons.



**Photo:** WS00145 – Headquarters of the Shetland Companies, Gordon Highlanders, Market Street, Lerwick

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A secret document had been drawn up by the government at the start of 1914. They had thought that in the event of war the enemy would have tried to invade Britain by sea through Shetland. A plan had been drawn up to defend Shetland from invasion. It was put into effect on the outbreak of war and consisted of four main areas:

- Cable guards
- Watch huts
- Gun crews
- Sea patrols

## 2.4 Cable guards

The telegraph cables were the only way (other than mail boats) to keep Shetland connected to the rest of the UK and world, so the Government did not wish to lose the link that kept them informed about shipping in the north etc. Soldiers were sent to be based in all the places where the telegraph cable came ashore, including Sandwick, Mossbank, Ulsta, Belmont and Burwick (Tingwall).



**Photo:** SM00166 - Sandwich cable guard, digging foundations for something. The cable guards were responsible for guarding the landfalls of the telegraph cable to Shetland, such as Sandwick, Burwick, Belmont.

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## 2.4 Watch huts

Watch huts were quickly built on the major hills in Shetland. Initially there were about thirty of them, but this decreased throughout the islands. They were staffed twenty four hours a day by older (40+) R.N.R men from the local area, who would go home when their shift was finished. The men were on the lookout for submarines, and if they spotted any they then phoned the nearest gun crews. Phone lines were erected to connect the watch huts to the nearest Gun Crew command point.



**Photo:** SM00231 - A watch hut, north of Hillswick, manned by two sailors of the Royal Naval Reserve, one of whom holds telescope. It is being visited by a naval officer and the Anderson family, Hillswick,

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## 2.5 Gun crews

There were seven gun crews from Belmont to Sandwick. If a submarine was spotted by the R.N.R men at a watch hut, they phoned the nearest command point to alert the gun crew. The gun would be towed from the back of a truck that was loaded with ammunition and men to the nearest place the hut had spotted the submarine. The gun was then fired at the submarine. All this depended on the Captain of the submarine being obliging enough to be on the surface of the sea and remain static. In actuality the guns never fired at any submarine, but the crews spent a lot of time practicing hitching up the gun, setting it up, firing etc. Shetland roads were made of

rocks, and the men often had to practise pulling the heavy gun across the countryside from the nearest road.

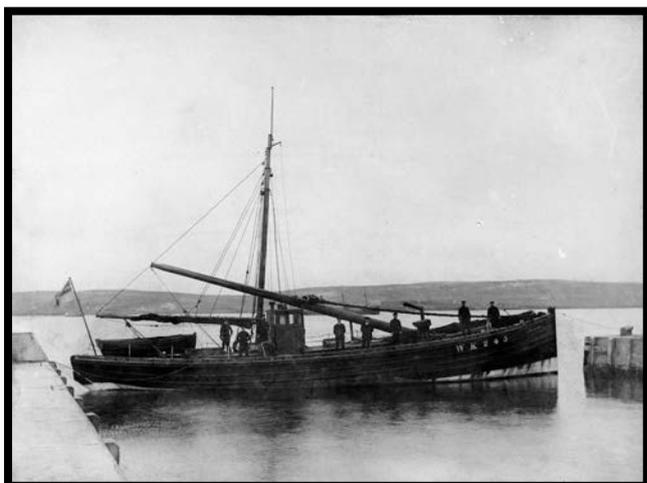


**Photo:** 03492 -Truck and field gun, with Royal Navy crew who operated it. This was one of the gun crews located around Shetland in the First World War, who were mobilised if a suspected enemy submarine was sighted. The gun was towed to the spot from its base. The Yell gun was based at Windhouse. Officer at right is Lieutenant William Gordon (Windhouse), commander of the gun's crew, with his dog "Airlie".

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## 2.6 Sea patrols

Several dozen fishing boats were commandeered by the Navy and crewed by older men from the R.N.R, not all were Shetland men. They patrolled the coast looking for mines that were afloat to dispose of them, or they were to try to intercept submarines. The boats were fitted out with guns and steel nets.



**Photo:** 00079 - Motor drifter BEN AIGEN WK 245, requisitioned by Royal Navy, in Lerwick Harbour. She was commissioned into the Navy in November 1914, and served as H.M.D. Benaigen. Here she still carries her peace-time name, and is unarmed, although she flies the white ensign and is R.N. crewed.

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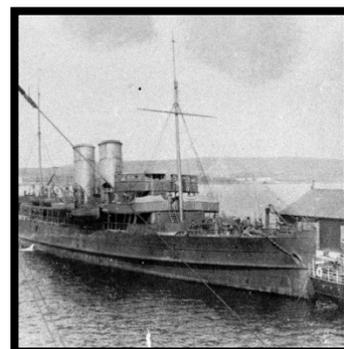
## 2.7 As the war progressed

The war became a stalemate in the winter 1914-15, and it was decided that more men were needed to break the impasse. All soldiers were needed at the front. The majority of soldiers left Shetland in the summer of 1915 for training camps and naval depots. For the first time in the history of Shetland a troop ship, The Cambria, came with the purpose of taking armed men away to war. More and more soldiers were needed in France, so the cable guard duties were taken over by the Royal Naval Reserve (Shetland Section). By Christmas 1915 the Shetland Territorials were in active service in France.



**Photo:** SM00064 – 240 men of the Shetland Companies, Gordon Highlanders marching along Esplanade to Victoria Pier, to leave on troopship Cambria.

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**Photo:** SM00371 - Troopship Cambria lying at Victoria Pier; on the occasion of the Shetland Companies Gordon Highlanders departure for the war.

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The majority of Shetland soldiers joined the Gordon Highlanders, but there were also men serving in the Highland Light Infantry, the Black Watch and other regiments. Shetlanders served in many branches of the army, in many countries across the world, such as France, Flanders, Russia, Egypt and Palestine.

The men that had been called up as R.N.R men or had enlisted in the navy were also sent south and dispersed to camps for training, then sent to various postings. Shetlanders served in the navy aboard many different types of vessels from fighting ships, anti-submarine boats to escort boats. The ability of Shetlanders meant they often served on small boats sent from UK patrol boats to board enemy or suspect vessels. It was older R.N.R Shetlanders that remained to do duties such as watch huts.

Islanders still worked on merchant vessels – not all men had been part of the R.N.R. Britain needed its merchant vessels to continue to bring supplies from all around the world.

The most visible merchant shipping locally was the continuation of the regular steamers. A steamer still went from the mainland to Lerwick, and there were still steamer services around Shetland that stopped at the country ports. The Earl of Zetland's route was Lerwick to Unst, Fetar, Yell, Whalsay, Skerries, whilst the St Clair was a larger steamer and did the west and north mainland ports; Walls, Aith, Voe, Brae, North Roe, Hillswick, and Ollaberry.

Merchant vessels had two naval gunners assigned, and guns were fitted to vessels to help defend them against enemy attack, but the merchant vessels still suffered heavy losses due to German submarines. Losses were reduced after the introduction of a convoy system in March 1917.

## 2.8 Shetland's strategic importance

The strategic importance of Shetland was recognised by the British Government, with the cable guards, watch huts etc. being established. The main naval base was at Lerwick. The English Channel was heavily guarded so the only access to the Atlantic for Germany was the seas north and south of Shetland.

The greatest strategic importance of Shetland was its blockade operations. Lerwick was established as an Examination Port and all non-British Merchant Shipping were examined for war contraband, to make sure they were not breaking the sea blockade. The blockade aimed to block or cut Germany off from overseas trade and resources that could help with their war effort. Countries were banned from trading with Germany obvious goods such as weapons, but also goods like rubber and chemicals that could be made into weapons, gas masks, even animal fodder. Foreign ships were stopped and searched by the 10<sup>th</sup> Cruiser Squadron in the seas around Shetland, and made to come into port at Lerwick for a more thorough examination.

In 1915 Germany declared a naval blockade against Britain to be enforced by their U-boats. This led to huge losses of life of men serving on British ships and ships from countries that were neutral in the war. In early 1917 Germany declared unrestricted warfare by submarines on any shipping (including neutral counties).

To try and reduce the heavy losses of British shipping, a convoy system for merchant shipping was introduced in 1917. Merchant ships travelled in convoys from the east and west coasts of Britain, up to Lerwick where they then crossed the North Sea and vice-versa. In less than one year 4,500 ships sailed from Lerwick. As well as their normal naval gunners onboard, the ships were escorted by armed naval boats.

A seaplane base was established at Catfirth, Nesting, to patrol for submarines in the North Sea. A Kite Balloon Base was established at Gremista, Lerwick. The base supplied and maintained Kite Balloons used on Royal Navy Ships. Kite Balloons were towed behind naval ships and had a basket, attached to a balloon, where an

officer sat to do reconnaissance and to observe where shots from gunnery fell. The balloons went to about 1000m high.

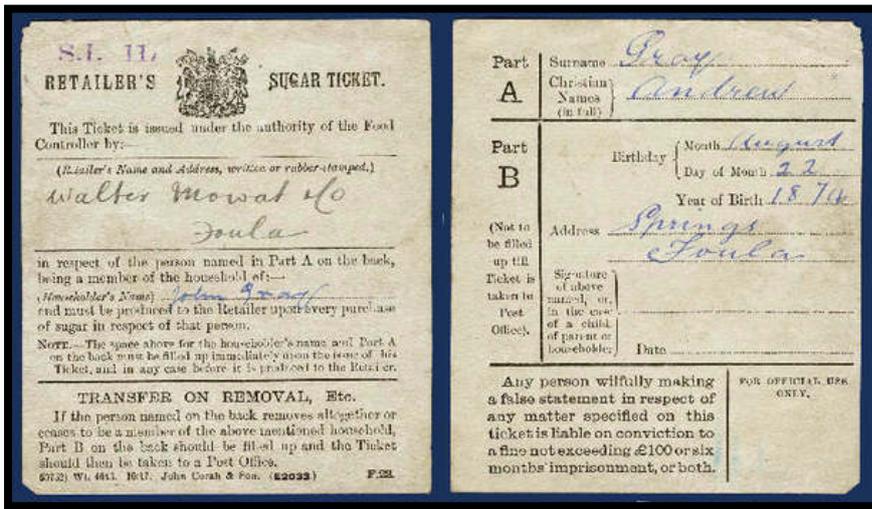
## 2.9 Home front

In the rest of the UK the heavy losses of merchant shipping, and the fact that many men and horses that used to work on farms were now at war, meant that the prices of food rose. The Government had campaigns about not wasting food so as it could feed the armed forces. The Women's Land Army was established in 1915 by the Board of Agriculture to replace the men who were now away at war.

Rationing was introduced across the UK by the summer of 1918 as food got scarcer (2lb of meat, ½ lb sugar and ½ lb total fats each a week). The Government advised that other foodstuffs such as tea, jam, cheese, oatmeal and rice should be used less, or with care. The prices of foods were going up during the war, so in 1918 the Government also tried to set prices on some foods. Vegetables were not price controlled and for a lot of people, were simply too expensive to eat.

In Shetland, although food shortages and high prices were not such a pressing issue as south, they were still an issue. Most islanders already grew vegetables and raised animals on crofts for their own consumption, and women and children already did a lot of the croft work as men were often away at sea. But so many men being away at war did affect the ability to harvest the same quantity of crops as before the war.

The Shetland weather over the war period was also poor, making some crops yield less: poor yield and war shortages pushed prices higher, which was good if you had surplus to sell, but not if you were buying. Women were able to sell hens, lambs, milk, knitting etc. to the sailors based in Shetland. In Lerwick, about 150 allotments were created by the Lerwick Town Council for people to grow food, and throughout the islands, crofters were encouraged to cultivate more land.



**Photo:** 01280 - Ration ticket from First World War, for selling sugar. Retailer is Walter Mouat & Co., Foula, customer is Andrew Gray, Springs.

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Shetlanders supported the war effort through a number of different activities. A branch of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild was formed in 1914, with Organisers and committees being established in each district. Thousands of Shetland women were involved. The purpose of the Guild was to knit and sew garments for soldiers and sailors. In total 15,496 knitted items were made including 5638 pairs of socks, 1925 scarves and 558 jumpers and cardigans. The women received many grateful letters of thanks from servicemen, for their garments.

The national Egg Collection for the Wounded was another war effort that involved Shetlanders from every parish throughout the period of the war. Eggs were collected from every parish and taken to Lerwick, from where they were sent to Aberdeen. The eggs were then distributed to the war wounded in hospitals. In the winter the eggs were preserved before being sent. In total over 300,000 eggs were collected throughout the war.

Days were organised where islanders would collect sphagnum moss. The moss was used as an antiseptic surgical dressing and it was washed and dried before being sent to mainland Scotland. "Moss Days" were organised in 1917 and 1918, and in total 5,500 sacks were collected.

Children helped with the war effort by collecting both moss and eggs too. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides were messengers for the naval base at Lerwick in order to free men for other duties.



**Photo:** 03569 - Collecting eggs during 1914-18 war outside Cunningsburgh School. Soldiers are helping the children.

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A company of the Women's Royal Naval Service was established in Lerwick enabling some women to participate in auxiliary forces. There were not the same opportunities as on mainland Britain for women to join various auxiliary forces e.g. W.A.A.C.

Various organisations such as The Shetland Times and the Lerwick Emergency Organisation, who also held First Aid classes in case war wounded were taken to Lerwick, raised money. The Lerwick Emergency Organisation also collected used clothing to give to men and women who had survived their ships being torpedoed in Shetland waters. Money was also raised through national days, such as Flag Day and by people buying war bonds.

## 2.10 Armistice & remembrance

At 9.00am on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, news of impending ceasefire was received by Admiral Greatorex at Fort Charlotte, and he informed the local newspapers. Armistice was declared on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918. The Armistice, though not officially the end of the war, brought peace for most.

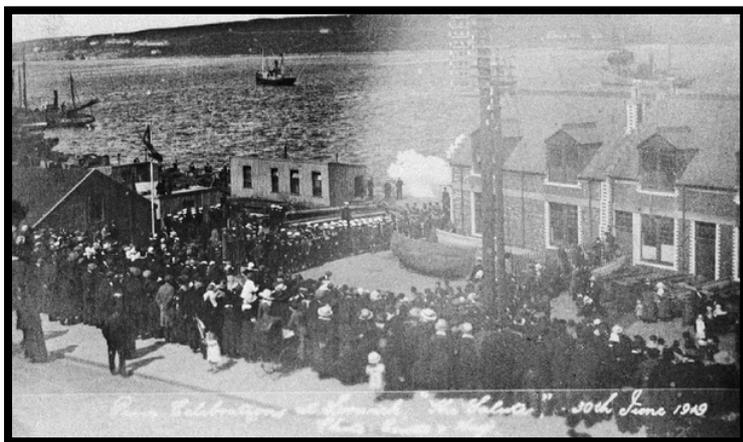
Placards and printed handbills were distributed through the town by schoolboys. The Shetland Times reported "Thank God, peace has come" but no indication of "hilarity" and no pretence of what is commonly described as "popular" rejoicing.

However, the end of war was marked in Lerwick by:

- Bell ringing
- Ships sirens
- Rockets were fired
- Flags and bunting displayed
- Brass Band played
- Young people sang patriotic songs

The official celebration for the end of the war in Lerwick occurred on June 30th 1919 following the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1919.

When the war ended, 630 Shetlanders had lost their lives out of the 3,600 that had gone to serve. The war had affected everyone's lives, those who had served and civilians. Many men who returned had been injured in the war, and although not discussed there was the emotional and mental impact the war had had on the returning servicemen too. The prospects for servicemen who returned to Shetland were poor and many chose to emigrate.



**Photo:** SM00218 - Peace Celebrations parade at the Esplanade; firing the salute.

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## 2.11 Remembering the fallen

Overall, nearly 10 million men lost their lives during World War One. Their families and loved ones didn't want their sacrifice to be forgotten and different ways to remember the fallen were developed nationally, locally and privately.

War memorials were one of the most visible acts of remembrance, with memorials being built across Europe. In Shetland, a committee was set up in 1918 to discuss and decide on an appropriate war memorial for all of Shetlands' fallen. Members from the Zetland County Council and Lerwick Town Council sought public opinion on what the most appropriate way to gain funding to build a memorial would be, and also what the design should be. After five years of discussion and planning, the War Memorial on Hillhead was unveiled. On the first Sunday in 1924, Mrs Thomas Hardy, who had lost three sons in the War, performed the unveiling.



Photo: NE08971 – Unveiling the war memorial at Hillhead, Lerwick. 6<sup>th</sup> January 1924

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Local memorials were also erected in most districts in Shetland, sometimes in Churches, sometimes outside. People did not want the men's sacrifice to be forgotten.

Across Britain, communities published Rolls of Honour – books and pamphlets listing the dead. In 1919, *Shetland's Roll of Honour and Roll of Service* was published. The book was the work of Thomas Manson, the editor of the *Shetland News*. Manson put an appeal in his newspaper and wrote to everyone on the electoral role asking for information on family members who served in the War. A committee of six men compiled the information within eighteen months, a huge amount of work.

## 2.12 Bibliography

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Ramsey, Winston G (ed.), *After the Battle – The Shetlands*, SA4/2544/35

Riddle, Linda, *Shetland and the Great War*, Thesis in Shetland Archives

Taylor, Marsali, *Women's Suffrage in Shetland*, 2010

## Chapter 3: Signposted Local Resources

### 3.1 War memorials

War Memorials can be found in communities across Shetland. Sometimes they are stone monuments outside with the names of the men from the local area, sometimes they are brass or wooden plaques inside Churches and have the names of the congregation who lost their lives.

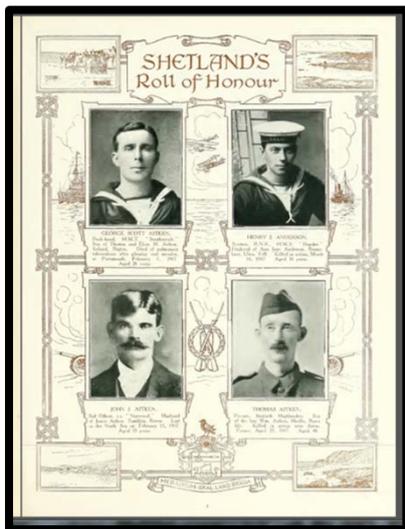
They can be a good starting point for projects for pupils to then build the individuals' war story.



### 3.2 Roll of Honour

Your school may have a hard copy of the Roll of Honour but it is also now available as a PDF from the National Library of Scotland. It is listed alphabetically under the places section. If you have any problems accessing this please contact Learning Staff at the Shetland Museum and Archives for a PDF copy:

<http://digital.nls.uk/great-war/resources/rolls-of-honour.html>



It is arranged in the following way:

- 1) *Roll of Honour*; photographs of the men that died. Arranged alphabetically, with some exceptions to allow relatives to appear on the same page; followed by a roll of honour list of men who had no photograph available.
- 2) *Roll of Service*; Lists all men who served, by the 12 Parish Council areas. Men who were living outside of Shetland when they joined up are included in their original parish. There is a special section for Shetlanders from outwith the islands (e.g. grandparents were islanders etc.); then a section for late entries and Women on Service e.g. WRNS, nurses.
- 3) *Shetland in the Great War* by J.J. Haldane Burgess (p.269-278). This concise article is a fantastic overview.

Thomas Manson who compiled the *Roll of Honour* was a local printer and editor of the Shetland News. His only son was killed at the Battle of Arras, and to commemorate his son and those who had fallen or served, he set up a committee of six prominent townspeople to produce a roll of honour. In February 1919 they sent a circular to all people on the Electoral Roll asking for information and photos. 36 volunteers from the different parishes went round contributor's houses to check the proofs. It was available to buy in five different bindings to suit every pocket.

The photographs are set in a drawing/ frame that depict both traditional images of Shetland and images of war - a warship, trawler, field guns and an aeroplane. There is also an image of a wreath and rifles which was a standard symbol of mourning, and the coat of arms of Lerwick.

In the entries of the *Roll of Honour*, the following information is typically given:

- Name and rank
- Regiment served in, or last vessel served on
- Parents/ wife and address
- Where/ when died
- Age when died

The *Roll of Service* lists the following information

- Name and rank
- Service and sometimes vessel
- Address

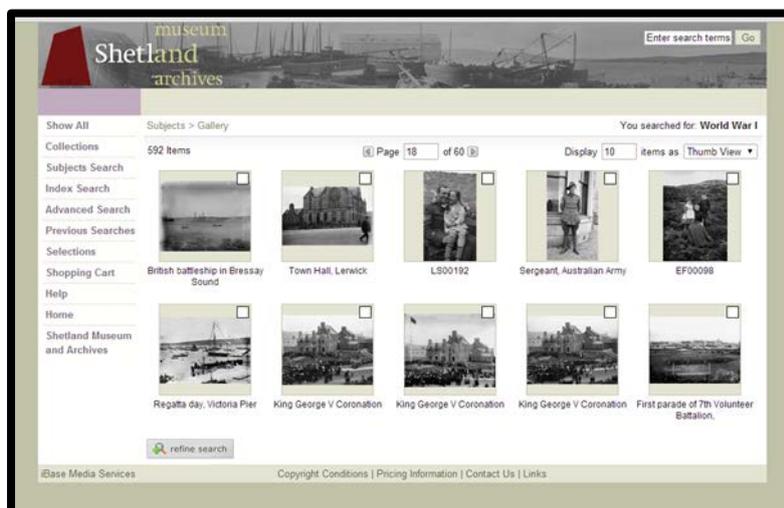
Information from the *Roll of Honour* can be used to research further individuals and what they did during the war.

### 3.3 Shetland Museum and Archives

[www.shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk](http://www.shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk)

A range of resources and learning opportunities are available from us. These include:

Photo Library – To access this, visit our website and click ‘Photo Library’ on the left hand menu of the homepage. Here you can search images by number or keyword.



The easiest way to find all 592 of our World War One images is to go to Index Search (on the left hand menu), then click “W”, then World War One.

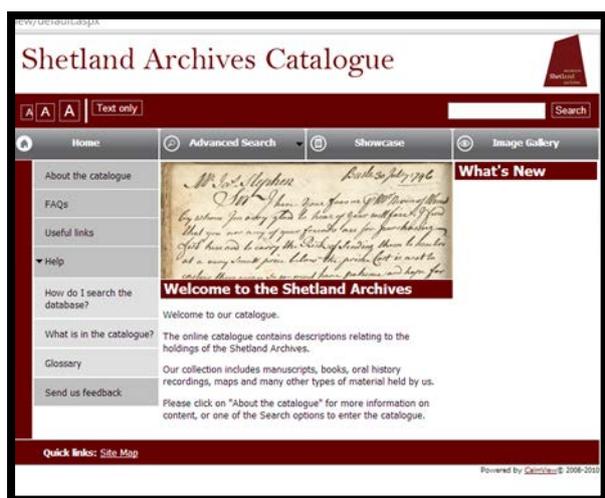
Photos can be enlarged and saved as jpegs for use in the classroom, school website etc. We would be grateful if you would acknowledge us by putting “courtesy of Shetland Museum and Archives” if on public display.

### 3.3.1 School outreach visits

We are delighted to be able to offer outreach visits for pupils in P4-7 and S1-2, where members of our learning team will visit your classroom with artefacts. A separate letter is being sent to all schools with details.

### 3.3.2 Research visits

Classes are welcome to come into the Archives Search Room to look at different documents, newspaper articles etc., but please book in advance. Classes get most out of their limited time by looking at what documents are available online beforehand and requesting them from the Archives. This allows Archives staff to look them out and have them waiting for you when you arrive. We strongly advise teaching staff to come in and look at the documents in advance to familiarise themselves and check their suitability for your project.



The Archives Catalogue can be found online here: <http://www.calmview.eu/ShetlandArchive/CalmView/> or access it from [www.shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk](http://www.shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk) then click “Archives Collections” on the left hand menu, then the link is in the text.

If you have any questions about World War One materials held in the Archives, contact Brian Smith, Archivist, on 01595 695057 or [brian@shetland-archives.org.uk](mailto:brian@shetland-archives.org.uk)

### 3.3.3 Other projects

**Indexing the Shetland News;** Volunteers at the Archives have been indexing the Shetland News newspaper from 1914-1918 to make it easier for people to use. To

search the index go to the Archives Catalogue, and type SA1/14 in the search box, then scroll down to the relevant years.

**Letter's home project;** this project will be in partnership with the Shetland Library and involves volunteers collating letters that servicemen sent home during the war, with the aim to publish them in 2015.

### Contact us

If you wish to book an outreach visit or discuss your project please contact Kirsty Clark or Yvonne Reynolds on 01595 695057 or [kirsty@shetland-museum.org.uk](mailto:kirsty@shetland-museum.org.uk) or [yvonne@shetland-museum.org.uk](mailto:yvonne@shetland-museum.org.uk)

## 3.4 Shetland Heritage Association



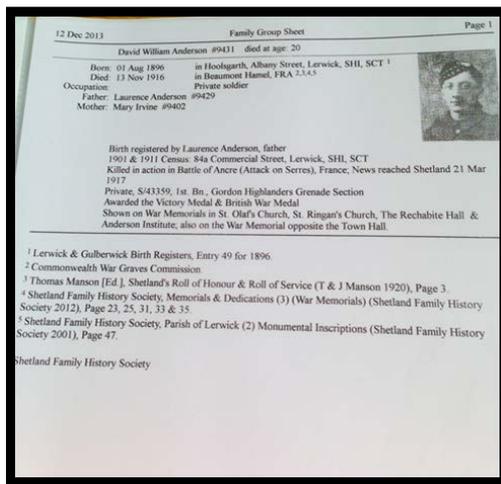
Shetland Heritage Association is the umbrella organisation for all museums and history groups in Shetland. Their website contains pages with contact details and information on the local groups and centres.

Local groups and museums may have information about individuals, about what your local area was like before and during the war. Most groups do research projects during the winter and a couple have started working on projects with their local schools.

Visit: [www.shetlandheritageassociation.com](http://www.shetlandheritageassociation.com)

## 3.5 Shetland Family History Society

Shetland Family History offers help and advice to people researching their ancestors. They have done many projects of the years to help researchers such as transcribing the census. Their World War One project has been to compile data from a multitude of sources to build up information on each Shetlander who died in the conflict.



For each person is a “Family Group Sheet” that contains a variety of information depending on what research sources they are mentioned in. The minimum information is:

- Age when died
- Father
- Mother
- Date and place of birth
- Rank, regiment/ boat served on
- Where/ how died
- Memorials mentioned in

Some individuals also have Commonwealth Grave certificates (see Resources outwith Shetland), copies of Service Records, copies of wills etc.

To access the records please contact: [secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk)

### 3.6 Shetland Library

A local bibliography has been produced, which focuses on books and articles that have useful Shetland content about the First World War.



Visit <http://www.shetland-library.gov.uk/> then on the left hand menu click on ‘Shetland Materials’ then click on ‘First World War local bibliography’.

Library and Archives staff are also working on a joint project to publish servicemen’s letters home, hopefully it will be published in 2015.

Librarians are currently developing resources on World War One targeted at the four levels of the Curriculum for Excellence. They will focus on two main areas; War at Home and War Away. It is hoped that they will become available online from Armistice 2014 onwards. They will be available at <http://www.shetland-library.gov.uk/LocalHistoryatShetlandLibrary.asp>

### 3.7 Shetland and the Great War thesis

Linda Riddell undertook 6 years research into “Shetland and the Great War” for her PhD thesis. It is a very reader-friendly thesis, and will be published as a book in 2015 by the Shetland Times. Chapters include Shetlanders in Service, Naval Operations in Shetland, the Home Front, and it’s the most accessible and comprehensive book on World War One we have come across. If you wish to get background knowledge to look into a specific area, we recommend looking here first.

Her thesis can be accessed for free here:

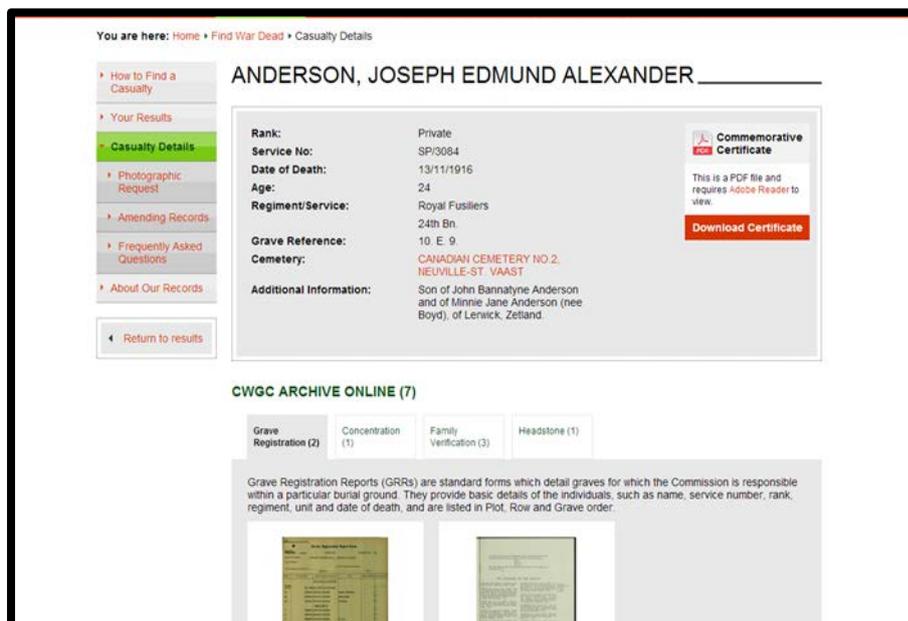
<https://www.era.lib.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/7771>

# Chapter 4: National Resources

## 4.1 Commonwealth Graves Commission: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

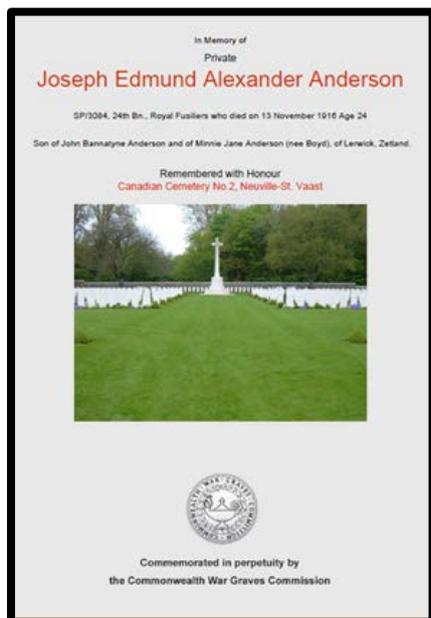
A good site to discover more information about the men listed in the Roll of Honour, and pupil friendly. Unfortunately not all men can be found on this. Click on advance search and fill in the boxes with information such as name, First World War, and see how many people they get returned, if too many they can add information, if known, from the Roll of Honour.

They will get a record like this.



The tabs at the bottom will vary from 1-4, depending on what information is available. Some entries have a google map showing where the cemetery/ memorial is.

All entries have the Commemorative Certificate PDF on the left hand side, which contains a photograph of the cemetery/ memorial and details of Next of Kin, Service number and regiment, date of death, and age at death.



The website also has a Learning and Resources section with classroom and assembly resources for primary and secondary pupils.

## 4.2 British Legion war memorial competition 2014 & 2015



This competition encouraged schools to discover the stories of local veterans using their local war memorial as a starting point. The competition in 2014 was jointly won by Fair Isle Primary school and their film can be seen here:

<http://www.legionscotland.org.uk/schools/primary-schools-war-memorial-competition-winners/>

Bells Brae Primary and Cullivoe Primary also entered, and Bells Brae's film can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xF5itbwghlg&feature=youtu.be>

### 4.3 National Library of Scotland – Experiences of the Great War

<http://digital.nls.uk/great-war/>



Within this resource you can find:

- trench maps,
- PDFs of Rolls of Honour from across Scotland
- official war photographs
- film footage
- personal stories of a Scottish nurse, conscientious objector, an ordinary soldier and Sir Douglas Haig

### 4.4 Other websites with relevant school resources

- Imperial War Museum <http://www.iwm.org.uk/learning/resources/learning-resources>
- BBC Schools <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/>
- First World War Centenary [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org)

## Conclusion

The commemoration of World War One centenary can be investigated from many different angles. Looking into the way it affected your schools local community does involve a lot of background work, but makes the centenary more meaningful to pupils. We hope this pack has given you the knowledge and ideas you require. We hope to have an exhibition in Da Gadderie in 2018 to showcase the project work schools have undertaken.