

# EAST BEDLINGTON

## Parish Council



### *Special Edition Newsletter*



*Commemorating the Armistice of 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918*

***This Special Parish Council Newsletter***, which commemorates the Armistice of 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, is a record of the men from Sleekburn, Cambois and Bedlington Station who were killed in the conflict, together with some hint of how their families must have suffered in the aftermath of their deaths.

It is the result of countless hours of research and many fascinating conversations. It has been created as a mark of respect to the families of this community and as testimony to the courage of its men and its women.

The total numbers of men killed in this “war to end all wars” are so great, that individual tragedies are submerged. We have tried to reflect how these tragedies affected this one small community. Others could paint a similar picture of their own towns and villages.

The War Memorials of Cambois and St John’s tell us only name and initial. Without the evidence of living memory certainty is difficult. However, families have preserved memories, papers, photographs, medals. All these things have been shared and have allowed a glimpse of that dark cloud, which settled on this community more than a hundred years ago. Through that cloud, it has been possible to see shreds of the lives of forebears, their work, their loves, their grief as the months went by. For indeed, between 1914 and 1918, hardly a month passed without news of yet another tragedy. Pit-work was dangerous and dirty, but nothing could have prepared the families for what was unfolding, far from home.

Of the lives of those who survived there is very little record, unless they went on to make their mark in other ways. “He never talked about it” is so often heard, so the irony is that official records tell us more of those who were killed, than about the men who returned to try to re-build their lives. So many families were fragmented, and children dispersed amongst relatives, that very few personal written records survive.

Some widows re-married and a new father took responsibility for their children. Some did not. Families stepped in, as they had always done, as they always do, and life went on.

That is perhaps the most surprising, most impressive, most frustrating thing. Men stopped talking about their experiences; wives and children forgot; life went on.

Sometimes, stories have been preserved as if by chance, and some are presented here. But every one of these men has a story and space is limited. If you wish to know more, please contact us and we will be happy to share what we have discovered.

Northumberland Fusiliers from Bedlingtonshire in Happier Times





Our community produced no officers – they were drawn only from the public schools – and the newspapers of the time were rarely interested in ‘other ranks’. This announcement is from the Newcastle Journal of Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1916, the week after the death of Private William Neil, of Back Clayton Street, whose young fiancée in South Shields shared the tragedy of his loss :

*"Biographical Information as to officers who have fallen will be welcomed by the Daily Journal".*

Privates didn't count for much and this is one of the reasons why tracing some of these men has proved so difficult. Only the British war cemeteries separate soldiers, even after death, into ‘officers’ and ‘men’ and the myth that the nation lost “the bravest and the best” is the ultimate insult to those who returned. They all faced the same foul conditions, the same deprivations and the same fear.

We hope that this slim record will reveal something of the strength and resilience of the families here, who rallied round and supported the widows and orphaned children (87 children were left fatherless). Many of those families are still here, and that same spirit survives in our community.

What is recorded on War Memorials is evidence of people's memories, and they can play tricks. Some men have proved elusive and we cannot yet be certain about their identity. Their names are listed below, rather than alongside their comrades. One day they might be found. Perhaps others will be encouraged to pursue their own research. If you can add anything, we would love to know.

**St. John's**

BELL, E                      RIDDLE, R                      SMITH, T                      MORDUE, J  
BROOKS, A                      ROBINSON, C                      TAIT, J                      REID, R  
CRAGGS, J                      SIMPSON, J                      TURNBULL, G

**Cambois**

COOPER, J  
DUNLOP, G

The addresses may, in some cases, be elsewhere, other than in this parish, but we can assume that these men worked here, and that either family or friends wanted to remember them here.

Northumberland Fusiliers from Bedlingtonshire in France



## 'The Great War' - Living connections and Community 1

1914-15 STAR. No. DIS. HONOR. DD. 25/11/1915		No. TYNESIDE, Z/6354	
Name JOHN GEORGE MILLICAN		B. No. TYNESIDE, Z/6354	
Rating	O.S. A.B.	Next of Kin	Father.
Date of Entry	26.7.15.	Name	Mr. George Millican.
Date of Birth	9.4.95.	Address	11, Jeas Houses, Cambois, NORTHUMBERLAND.
Place of Birth		Height	5'5"
Address	11, Jeas Houses, Cambois, NORTHUMBERLAND.	Chest	1.34½" D.32½"
Previous Service		Complexion	Fair.
Religion	R.C.	Colour of Hair	Light.
Swim?	No;	Colour of Eyes	Grey.
Civil Employment	Fireman	Marks, wounds and scars	None.
		Notes	

Joyce Jackson grew up in Cambois and now lives in Bedlington Station.

Her Father, Will Kennedy, served in the Northumberland Fusiliers in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) and returned to start a family with Margaret Jane Harkus Gibson (they married in 1919).

Margaret (Jinnie) was housekeeper, first to Dr. Bingham in Cambois, then when he enlisted in February 1915, moved to London and lived and worked in the household of Dr. William Barkley in Southfield, London. Whenever soldiers from Cambois arrived back in England on leave, they were told to contact her and she would look after them. Which of course she was proud to do. She returned to Cambois when her brother Frank Gibson, was killed.

Dr. John Warnock Bingham enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps in February 1915, and is commemorated as Captain Bingham in the Communal Cemetery in Mons, Belgium.

Jinnie Gibson's brother, Frank, was killed in 1917. He is buried in 'The Huts Cemetery', close to Ypres. An irony, because in later years, his parents lived in 'The Huts', Cambois.

Will Kennedy's elder brother, Albert, was killed in 1918 and is buried in Soissons, France.

After the death of John George (Jack) Millican in 1917, Will Kennedy's father, Thomas Jackson, married Jack's widow, Mabel (Hamblin). Jack and Mabel had been married for exactly one week when he was killed.

It's a small world sometimes.

**Proud Able Seaman Jack Millican  
of 11 Gees Houses, Cambois**



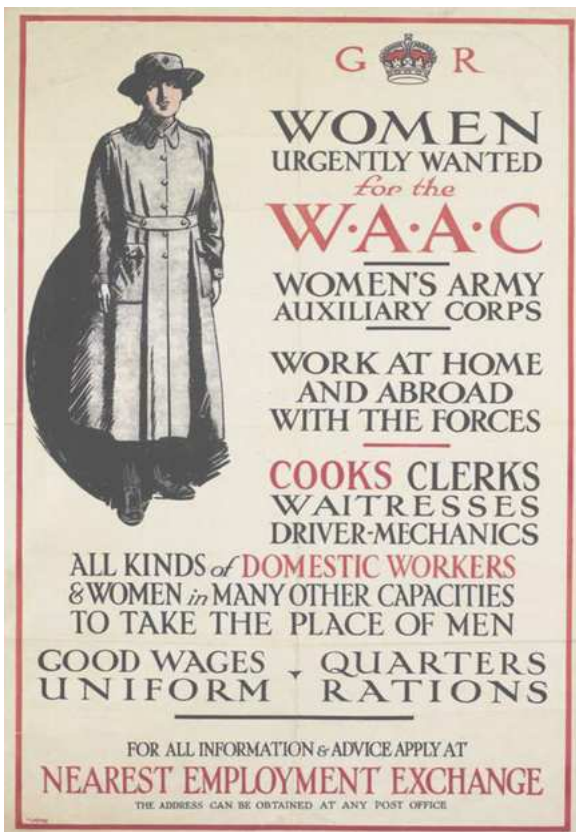
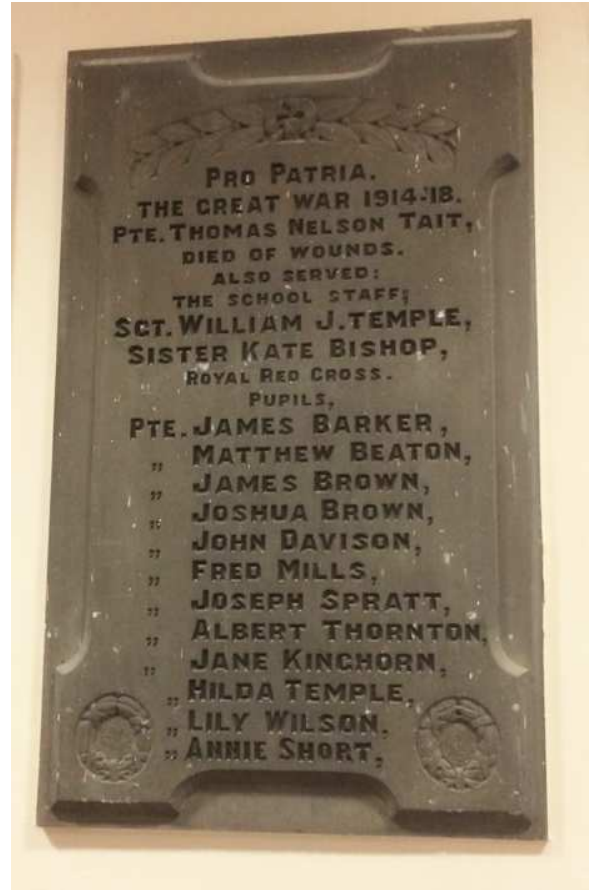


## ‘The Great War’ - Living connections and Community 2

Elsie Branley, too, has lived in Bedlington Station and Cambois for all of her 93 years. Her mother is one of 4 young women, all born in 1899 and classmates in the first ever class of what is now Bedlington Station Primary School, whose names are on the plaque in the school hall :

Jane Peel Kinghorn was Elsie’s Mother and we believe that all four young women enlisted in the newly formed Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps in 1917. Unfortunately, those records are now lost.

Jane met her husband, George Pharoah of West Sleekburn, in the Ripon training camp, and they were married in St. John’s Church on November 1<sup>st</sup> 1919. George had been wounded and carried a bullet in his knee until the day he died.



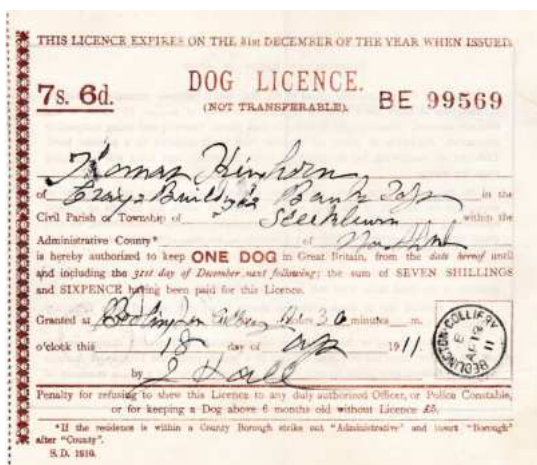
Elsie’s Grandfather, George Kinghorn, was one of two brothers killed. George’s widow never re-married, and Elsie remembers her as an old lady, dressed in black, who spent most of her time ‘on the cooch’.

George, the younger brother by six years, is standing.

Between them the Kinghorn brothers left 10 orphaned children. Robert Kinghorn’s widow, Lizzie, married James Weatheritt in 1920 and went on to have three more children to add to the seven she already had.



**Dog Licence .....**  
**Now there’s a story !!**



## GALLIPOLI

Gallipoli    The Dardanelles    Suvla Bay    Cape Helles    (1915)

**2200 miles from home and different names for the same place**

*In 1915 my country said, son  
It's time to stop mining  
There's work to be done  
So they gave me a tin hat  
And they gave me a gun  
And they marched me off to the war.*

Of the one million men involved in the Gallipoli campaign between one third and one half became casualties. Of the 44,070 Allied soldiers killed 8,709 were Australians. About 86,000 Turks were killed.

Some young men from Cambois and Sleekburn enlisted in the Royal Navy, perhaps thinking that they might see something of the world. This is as far as they got.

20,956 Commonwealth servicemen have no known graves and are commemorated on the Helles Memorial, on a headland overlooking the straits of the Dardanelles.

It is sometimes possible to discover something of the men behind the names:

Edmund Silverton, of Gees Houses, Cambois Colliery, was unmarried and thrifty : he left his parents £25 in his will.

Able Seaman William Robinson SHAW (25) and Able Seaman Robert SHAW (20) were the younger brothers of Private Francis Robinson SHAW who was killed on the Somme on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 1916, aged 32.

Nicholas Reay Millican lied about his age – he said he was born in 1895, but was actually baptised on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1898 at Cambois St. Peter's.

John Thomas Millican, his elder brother, was also baptised in Cambois St. Peter's; on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 1892.

### Nicholas Millican's record card reveals a real person :

Name NICHOLAS MILLICAN		B.No. H.F/515	
Rating	C.P.    R.S. 10. 9.14.	Next of Kin	Father.
Date of Entry	10. 9.14.	Name	Thomas Millican,
Date of Birth	08. 2.95.	Address	Old Institute, Cambois, BR. SMYTH.
Place of Birth		Height	5'5"
Address	Old Institute, Cambois, BR. SMYTH.	Chest	1. 53" D. 38½"
Previous Service		Complexion	Fair.
Religion	C. of E.	Colour of Hair	Very fair.
Swim ?		Colour of Eyes	Light blue.
Civil Employment	Miner.	Marks, wounds and scars	
		Notes	

Robert Houlison, of 18 Cowgate, Cambois, was killed just 3 days after landing at Suvla Bay    aged 18

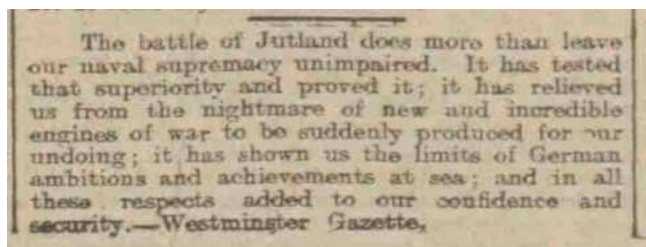
Private Hebbie ANDERSON, of 35, Back Clayton Street, was killed just two days after landing    aged 19

## JUTLAND

The Battle of Jutland took place 31<sup>st</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June 1916, off the Danish coast.

The Official View :

***“Thrilling Story of the Fight – Traditions of the British Navy Upheld”***  
***(Newcastle Daily Chronicle)***



**Total German Casualties : 2551                      Total British Casualties : 6094**

The **Black Prince** was sunk with the loss of **857 men**. Amongst them was:

**Able Seaman Robert Milburn Dixon of 13 Boathouse Terrace, Cambois, aged 17.**

**HMS Indefatigable** was sunk with the loss of **1,017 men**. Amongst them was:

**Able Seaman Randall GREEN, aged 29.** He worked at the 'A' Pit.

His wife of less than six months posted this notice in the Blyth News of 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1917:

In affectionate remembrance of my dear husband, Randall Green of Hartford, who lost his life in the Battle of Jutland, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1916.

***One year has passed when from home he took his leave. In youth and health ....  
 We little thought the humble grave did wait for his return.***

***Think of him in silence. No eye may see me weep***

***But deep down in my heart, his memory I will keep.***

Ever remembered by his loving wife, Mary Jane Green.

**HMS Shark** was sunk with the loss of **86 men**. Amongst them was :

**Able Seaman Albert Edward MORRIS of 19, Sinkers Row, Cambois aged 18.**

The details on his record, together with the official stamp, make a poignant record .

Ship, &c., served in.	List.	No.	Rating.	Period of Service.		If discharged, whether and for what cause.	Sub-Ratings and Badges.	Character and Ability.		Date and period of S.S. Engagements.																				
				From	To			C.	A.																					
Victory		1854662	Ord. S.	22 July 15	6 Oct 15			Star	31.12.15	Sat. 22 July 1915. - 5.7.16																				
Shark (Shark)		12245155	"	1 Oct 15	21 Dec 15	142 days Det. Jutland		R.G.	Sat.																					
"		"	"	27 Jan 16	31 Oct 16																									
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Height and Chest.</td> <td>Hair.</td> <td>Eyes.</td> <td>Complexion.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. 4 1/2 35 1/2</td> <td>Brown</td> <td>Grey</td> <td>Fair</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Wounds, Scars, Marks, &amp;c.</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Dark hole side Engagement</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">Clothing and Bedding.</td> </tr> </table>											Height and Chest.	Hair.	Eyes.	Complexion.	5. 4 1/2 35 1/2	Brown	Grey	Fair	Wounds, Scars, Marks, &c.				Dark hole side Engagement				Clothing and Bedding.			
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Date of death	Where remembered	Rank and Name
16 <sup>th</sup> September, 1914	La Ferté-sous-Jouarre, France *	Private Ernest Herbert TURNER
12 <sup>th</sup> January, 1915	Cité Bonjean, Armentières, France	Private David LATIMER
25 <sup>th</sup> April, 1915	V Beach Cemetery, Gallipoli, Turkey	Able Seaman Nicholas Reay MILLICAN
24 <sup>th</sup> May, 1915	New Irish Farm, Ypres, Belgium	Private Robert FOSTER
4 <sup>th</sup> June, 1915	Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey *	Able Seaman George William REED
4 <sup>th</sup> June, 1915	Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey *	Leading Seaman Edmund SILVERTON
4 <sup>th</sup> June, 1915	Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey *	Able Seaman John George THIRLWELL
15 <sup>th</sup> June, 1915	Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium *	Private Abel HARRIS
16 <sup>th</sup> June, 1915	Chatby Military Cemetery, Alexandria, Egypt	Private George WALDING
24 <sup>th</sup> June, 1915	Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey *	Able Seaman William Robinson SHAW
26 <sup>th</sup> June, 1915	Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey *	Able Seaman Robert SHAW
8 <sup>th</sup> August, 1915	Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey *	Private John Thomas MILLICAN
9 <sup>th</sup> August, 1915	Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey *	Private Hebbie ANDERSON
9 <sup>th</sup> August, 1915	Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey *	Private Robert HOULISON
19 <sup>th</sup> August, 1915	Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey *	Private Thomas GRADY
28 <sup>th</sup> August, 1915	Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey *	Private John George LOWERY
28 <sup>th</sup> August, 1915	Alexandria, Egypt	Lance Corporal William THOMPSON
14 September 1915	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France*	Sapper William ELLIOTT
23 <sup>rd</sup> September, 1915	Helles Memorial, Gallipoli, Turkey *	Private William JARVIS
25 <sup>th</sup> September, 1915	Loos, France *	Private Michael MURPHY

Asterisk \* Signifies 'No Known Grave' Blue Highlight Represents the Death of a Brother Maroon is a Cousin



Last Known Address	Children	Age
6, Howard Terrace, Bank Top		aged, 28
51, Beecher Street, Cowpen	2 children	aged 34
<b>3, Old Institute, Cambois</b>		<b>aged 17</b>
20, Freehold Row, Barrington Colliery		aged 21
108, North Row, Bedlington Station		aged 19
5, Boca Chica, Cambois		aged 21
2, Store Row, Cambois		aged 17
33, Ravensworth Terrace		aged 39
14 Sinkers Row, Cambois		aged 19
<b>2, Beech Grove</b>		<b>aged 25</b>
<b>2, Beech Grove</b>		<b>aged 20</b>
<b>3, Old Institute, Cambois</b>		<b>aged 23</b>
35, Back Clayton Street		aged 19
18, Cowgate, Cambois		aged 18
4, Cowgate, Cambois		aged 29
Prudhoe Cottage, Newbiggin		aged 25
20, Store Row, Cambois		aged 20
14, Boca Chica, Cambois		Aged 40
14, Store Row, Cambois		aged 19
86, North Row, Bedlington Station		aged 23

Date of death	Where remembered	Rank and Name
27 <sup>th</sup> September, 1915	Loos, France *	Private John Neil CLAUSEN
27 <sup>th</sup> September, 1915	Loos, France *	Private David THAIN
7 <sup>th</sup> January, 1916	Amara, Iraq *	Private John Adam BELL
26 <sup>th</sup> January, 1916	X Farm, Armentières, France	Private James Edward CHRISTIE
18 <sup>th</sup> February, 1916	Lyness RN Cemetery, Isle of Hoy, Orkney	Able Seaman Thomas EMERY
20 <sup>th</sup> February, 1916	Fleurbaix, France	Private Thomas Henry COWEN
18 <sup>th</sup> March, 1916	Kut, Iraq	Gunner Walter SPARKS
15 <sup>th</sup> April, 1916	Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium *	Private Edward Watson POTTER
31 <sup>st</sup> May 1916	Jutland, Denmark *	Able Seaman Robert Milburn DIXON
31 <sup>st</sup> May, 1916	Jutland, Denmark *	Able Seaman Randall GREEN
<b>31<sup>st</sup> May 1916</b>	<b>Jutland, Denmark *</b>	<b>Able Seaman Albert Edward MORRIS</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> June, 1916	Bécordel-Bécourt, Somme	Private Edward MASON
7 <sup>th</sup> June, 1916	Méricourt-l'Abbé, France	Private George GRAY
11th June, 1916	Albert, France	Private James FOSTER
24 <sup>th</sup> June, 1916	Boulogne, France	Private William Greeves HAY
<b>30<sup>th</sup> June, 1916</b>	<b>St Sever, Rouen, France</b>	<b>Private James NICHOLSON</b>
1st July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private Joseph BAILEY
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Lance Corporal David Montgomery Douglass BARRON
<b>1<sup>st</sup> July, 1916</b>	<b>Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *</b>	<b>Lance Corporal Robert CHILTON</b>

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Last Known Address	Children	Age
26, Melrose Terrace		aged 35
1, River View, Bank Top		aged 32
24 ½ Victoria Terrace	2 children	aged 41
11, Sinkers' Row, Cambois		aged 19
20, Jubilee Terrace		aged 19
Moorland Cottages, Sleekburn		aged 26
3, Quality Row, Cambois		aged 27
8, Rothesay Terrace		aged 26
13, Boathouse Terrace, Cambois		aged 17
Hartford		aged 29
<b>19, Sinkers Row, Cambois</b>		<b>aged 18</b>
22, Ravensworth Terrace	5 children	aged 43
23, Melrose Terrace	2 grown-up children	aged 35
24, Cowgate, Cambois		aged 18
17, Puddlers Row, Bank Top		aged 38
<b>Bedlington Station</b>		<b>aged 26</b>
21, Back Clayton Street	4 children	aged 39
23 Dale Street, Cambois		aged 30
<b>Moorland Cottage, Bedlington Station</b>	<b>3 children</b>	<b>aged 34</b>



Date of death	Where remembered	Rank and Name
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Lance Corporal Philip Mabon CLARK
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Serjeant Robert COCKBURN
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Serjeant William CRAM
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Lance Corporal Thomas DOYLE
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private James DUNBAR
<b>1<sup>st</sup> July, 1916</b>	<b>Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *</b>	<b>Private John Robert FERRIER</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private William FLOCKHART
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Ovillers, France	Private William HALL
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private Richard Jackson HARVEY
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private James HYDE
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private Robert INCE
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Ovillers, France	Private William JAMIESON
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private Christopher JEFFERSON
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Ovillers, France	Private Francis JOHNSON
<b>1<sup>st</sup> July, 1916</b>	<b>Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *</b>	<b>Private George KINGHORN</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private Nicholas KNOX
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Ovillers, France	Private William George LATTY
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private William Redford PATTISON
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private Henry PATTERSON

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Last Known Address	Children	Age
Bomarsund		aged 25
105, North Row, Bedlington Station		aged 20
Bedlington Coal Company	3 children	aged 32
112, North Row, Bedlington Station		aged 27
105, Jubilee Terrace		aged 27
<b>22, Allgood Terrace</b>	<b>1 son</b>	<b>aged 24</b>
56, South Row, Bedlington Station		aged 32
82, South Row, Bedlington Station		aged 23
2, South View, East Sleekburn (not on either Memorial)		aged 20
2, Chapel Row, Cambois		aged 18
64, North Row, West Sleekburn	2 children	aged 33
79, South Row, Bedlington Station		aged 27
16 ½ Victoria Terrace	2 children	aged 33
Routledges Buildings, Barrington	2 children	aged 42
<b>6 ½ Pioneer Terrace</b>	<b>3 children</b>	<b>aged 39</b>
5, King's Road		aged 19
72, South Row, Bedlington Station		aged 19
23, Watergate, Cambois		aged 20
31, Boathouse Terrace, Cambois		aged 22

Date of death	Where remembered	Rank and Name
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private John William RICHARDSON
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private Benjamin RICHES
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private John Thompson ROBINSON
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private William ROBSON
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private Henry Rutter ROUTLEDGE
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Lance Corporal William SOUTHERN
1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private Albert WOOD
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1916</b>	<b>St Sever, Rouen, France</b>	<b>Private William NICHOLSON</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private John Robert SCOTT
4 <sup>th</sup> July, 1916	Cologne, Germany	Private Nicholas FITZSIMMONS
7 <sup>th</sup> July, 1916	Méaulte, France	Private Edward ALLEN
7 <sup>th</sup> July, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private Thomas George LAVERICK
7 <sup>th</sup> July, 1916	Ovillers, France	Private Albert SINGLETON
11 <sup>th</sup> July, 1916	Bedlington	Private John WALKER
13 <sup>th</sup> July 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private Joseph ROBSON
18 <sup>th</sup> July, 1916	Ridge Wood, Belgium	Private Herbert Leonard BOUND
3 <sup>rd</sup> August, 1916	Mametz, France	Serjeant Thomas Septimus SILVERTON
17 <sup>th</sup> August, 1916	Mametz, France	Private Thomas Crymer ROBERTSON
23rd August, 1916	St Paul's, Choppington	Private John COWANS

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Last Known Address	Children	Age
1, Whitley Terrace		aged 27
20, Watergate, Cambois		aged 29
84 ½ Victoria Terrace	1 child	aged 27
75, South Row, Bedlington Station		aged 19
Hornby House, Bedlington Station		aged 34
13, Victoria Terrace		aged 20
6, New Row, Cambois		aged 23
<b>Bedlington Station</b>		<b>aged 27</b>
23, Watergate, Cambois		aged 30
8, Wood Row, Bank Top & 3, Front Clayton Street	3 children	aged 30
22, Watergate, Cambois		aged 34
35, Boathouse Terrace, Cambois		aged 26
12, North View		aged 25
35 ½ Victoria Terrace		aged 33
8, Chapel Row, Cambois		aged 22
16, Gray Street, North Blyth		aged 22
5, Mawburn Terrace, Cambois		aged 34
11, Bridge Street, Cambois		aged 33
1, Wood Row, Bank Top		aged 21

Date of death	Where remembered	Rank and Name
29 <sup>th</sup> August, 1916	Maricourt, France	Private Francis Robinson SHAW
15 <sup>th</sup> September, 1916	Puchevillers, France	Corporal Charles FENWICK
16 <sup>th</sup> September, 1916	Ration Farm, Armentières, France	Corporal Robert James KANE
17 <sup>th</sup> September, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Lance Corporal David BROOKS
21 <sup>st</sup> September, 1916	Abbeville, France	Serjeant William MOFFATT MM
26 <sup>th</sup> September, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private William MATTHEWS
15 <sup>th</sup> October, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Private William NEIL
5 <sup>th</sup> November, 1916	3 Arbres, Steenwerck, France	Acting Serjeant Alexander JEFFREY
13 <sup>th</sup> November, 1916	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *	Able Seaman George HANLON
13 <sup>th</sup> November, 1916	Beaumont-Hamel, France, France *	Able Seaman George JUDE
13 <sup>th</sup> November, 1916	Ancre, Beaumont-Hamel, France	Able Seaman George William RAMSEY
21 <sup>st</sup> November, 1916	Bedlington	Able Seaman Joseph PATTISON
28 <sup>th</sup> December, 1916	Amara, Iraq	Sapper Samuel Arthur ROUND
30 <sup>th</sup> December, 1916	Longueval, France	Private Robert JAMIESON
5 <sup>th</sup> March, 1917	Faubourg d'Amiens, Arras, France	Private John MIDDLEMISS
15 <sup>th</sup> April, 1917	Duisans, France	Private Thomas KINGHORN
9 <sup>th</sup> April, 1917	Roclincourt, France	Lance Corporal Joseph HORNSBY
10 <sup>th</sup> April, 1917	Aubigny, Somme, France	Private David BLYTH
12 <sup>th</sup> April, 1917	Etaples, France	Private Charles TWEDDLE

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Last Known Address	Children	Age
<b>12 ½ Rothesay Terrace</b>	<b>2 children</b>	<b>aged 32</b>
27, South Row, Bedlington Station		aged 22
14, Ravensworth Terrace	6 children	aged 36
7, Walker Terrace, Bedlington		aged 25
24, Back Clayton Street	2 children	aged 35
West Row, Bebside		aged 34
15, Back Clayton Street		aged 21
Ravensworth Terrace	3 children	aged 24
24, Mawburn Terrace, Cambois		aged 21
77, South Row, Bedlington Station		aged 26
8, Howard Terrace, Bank Top		aged 22
75, South Row, Bedlington Station		aged 20
5, Ridley Terrace, Cambois		aged 30
79, South Row, Bedlington Station		aged 24
6, Melrose Terrace		aged 31
<b>13, Puddlers Row, Bank Top</b>	<b>7 children</b>	<b>aged 36</b>
<b>19, Boathouse Terrace, Cambois</b>		<b>aged 26</b>
15, Dale Street, North Blyth		aged 31
Gladstone Street, Blyth	2 sons	aged 22



Date of death	Where remembered	Rank and Name
23 <sup>rd</sup> April, 1917	Arras Memorial, France *	Serjeant Harry LEE
3 <sup>rd</sup> May, 1917	Richebourg-l'Avoue, France	Private James AGNEW
26 <sup>th</sup> May, 1917	Bucquoy Road Cemetery, France	Private James HENDERSON
28 <sup>th</sup> May, 1917	Bedlington	Private John DAVIDSON
2 <sup>nd</sup> qtr 1917	'Died at home'	Private Robert SPENCER
14 <sup>th</sup> July, 1917	Albuera Cemetery, Bailleul, France	Able Seaman John George MILLICAN
<b>25<sup>th</sup> August, 1917</b>	<b>Tincourt, Picardy, France</b>	<b>Lance Corporal James Swinney ELLIOTT</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> August, 1917	Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium *	Lance Corporal Robert Hedley WARDLE
<b>9<sup>th</sup> September, 1917</b>	<b>Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France *</b>	<b>Private George FERRIER</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> September, 1917	Hargicourt, Picardy, France	Corporal Walter YOUNG <b>Médaille Militaire</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> September, 1917	Zuydcoote, France	Private William Ruddock TWEEDY
20 <sup>th</sup> September, 1917	Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium *	Corporal William DOUGLAS
28 <sup>th</sup> September, 1917	Tincourt, France	Lance Serjeant John George ALLEN
28 <sup>th</sup> September, 1917	'The Huts', Ypres, France	Private Frank GIBSON
1 <sup>st</sup> October, 1917	Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium *	Private Tom SMITH
4 <sup>th</sup> October, 1917	Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium *	Private Charles Bernard CRAMER
11 <sup>th</sup> October, 1917	Baghdad, Iraq	Driver Edward STOBART
26 <sup>th</sup> October, 1917	Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium *	Private William Alexander (Willie) ROBERTSON
27 <sup>th</sup> October, 1917	Giavera, Italy	Private Edward TUBBY MM

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Last Known Address	Children	Age
12, Clayton Street	4 children	aged 36
12, Boathouse Terrace, Cambois		aged 23
12, Victoria Terrace		aged 20
Puddlers' Row, Bank Top; 22, Clayton Street; 20, Shop Row		aged 19
37, South Row, Bedlington Station		aged 23
11, Gees Houses, Cambois		aged 23
<b>38, Boathouse Terrace, Cambois</b>		<b>aged 22</b>
17, Store Row, Cambois		aged 30
<b>22, Allgood Terrace</b>		<b>aged 22</b>
27, Boca Chica, Cambois		aged 23
23, Middle Street, Bedlington Station	5 children	aged 36
40, Bridge Street, Cambois		aged 22
28 ½, Ravensworth Terrace		aged 23
1, Boca Chica, Cambois		aged 22
Osborne House, Puddlers' Lane	1 child	aged 32
24, South Row		aged 25
6, Dale Street, North Blyth		aged 20
Boca Chica, Cambois	1 child	aged 28
18, Front Clayton Street	2 children	aged 27

Date of death	Where remembered	Rank and Name
2 <sup>nd</sup> November, 1917	Duhallow, Belgium	Private Charles HOPPER
14 <sup>th</sup> November, 1917	'The Huts', Ypres, France	Lance Corporal Thomas FOGO
23 <sup>rd</sup> November, 1917	Wancourt, Arras, France	Private John REYNOLDS
26 <sup>th</sup> November, 1917	Roclincourt, Arras, France	Private George JENNINGS
28 <sup>th</sup> November, 1917	Renninghelst, Belgium	Sapper William MOUTER
21 <sup>st</sup> March, 1918	Pozières, France *	Private John Forster MORRISON
23 <sup>rd</sup> March, 1918	Arras Memorial, France *	Private William DOBSON
<b>27<sup>th</sup> March, 1918</b>	<b>Moyenneville, France</b>	<b>Private George Henry TAYLOR</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> March, 1918	Arras Memorial, France *	Lance Corporal James BELL
8 <sup>th</sup> April, 1918	Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium *	Private Thomas PRINGLE
11 <sup>th</sup> April, 1918	Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium *	Private Thomas WILKINSON
14 <sup>th</sup> April, 1918	Pernes-en-Artois, France	Private Thomas Nelson TAIT
15 <sup>th</sup> April, 1918	Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium *	Lance Corporal James Snowden ROPER
17 <sup>th</sup> April, 1918	St. Jans-Cappel, France	Lance Corporal James DAY
20 <sup>th</sup> April, 1918	Bedlington	Private Frank TROTTER
<b>24<sup>th</sup> April, 1918</b>	<b>Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium *</b>	<b>Private Samuel Arnott HORNSBY</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> April, 1918	Boves, Amiens, France	Gunner Thomas ROCHESTER
12 <sup>th</sup> May, 1918	Kalamaria, Greece	Private Matthew GILL
21 <sup>st</sup> July, 1918	Thiepval Memorial, Somme *	Private Daniel FITZSIMMONS

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Last Known Address	Children	Age
20, Mawburn Terrace, Cambois		aged 23
15, Sinkers' Row, Cambois		aged 24
28, South Row, Bedlington Station		aged 23
9, Brick Row, Bank Top		aged 28
3, Rothesay Terrace		aged 25
8, Boca Chica, Cambois		aged 21
3, New South Row, Bedlington Station		aged 23
<b>121, North Row, Bedlington Station</b>		<b>aged 20</b>
38, Bridge Street, Cambois		aged 28
85, Rothesay Terrace		aged 31
13, Front Clayton Street		aged 20
9, Cross Row, Bedlington Station		aged 19
35, Boca Chica, Cambois		aged 22
10, Quality Row, Cambois		aged 28
Clayton Arms		aged 42
<b>19, Boathouse Terrace, Cambois</b>		<b>aged 18</b>
11, Melrose Terrace		aged 30
18, Back Clayton Street	4 children	aged 42
8, Wood Row, Bank Top; 17, Ravensworth Terrace	2 children	aged 30

Date of death	Where remembered	Rank and Name
24 <sup>th</sup> July, 1918	Etaples, France	Lance Corporal Thomas HEDLEY
29 <sup>th</sup> July, 1918	Soissons, France	Private Albert KENNEDY
19 <sup>th</sup> August, 1918	Vauxbuin, France	Private Walter Scott BATEY
23 <sup>rd</sup> August, 1918	Queen's Cemetery, Bucquoy, France	Private Charles Christopher BEATTIE
23 <sup>rd</sup> August, 1918	Bellacourt, France	Serjeant Robert CARRUTHERS MM
25 <sup>th</sup> August, 1918	New Orleans, USA	Able Seaman James METCALFE
31 <sup>st</sup> August, 1918	Combles, France	Private Henry Thomas WEATHERITT
20 <sup>th</sup> September, 1918	Basra Memorial, Iraq *	Private James Henry GILL
<b>27<sup>th</sup> September, 1918</b>	<b>Orival Wood, Flesquières, France</b>	<b>Rifleman Arthur Borrows TAYLOR</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> September, 1918</b>	<b>West Sleekburn Cemetery</b>	<b>Leading Seaman Robert MORRIS</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> September, 1918	Hooge Crater Cemetery, Belgium	Private William CROSBY
4 <sup>th</sup> October, 1918	Kut, Iraq	Private William GREGORY (RAF),
5 <sup>th</sup> October, 1918	Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France *	Private Thomas STOREY
18 <sup>th</sup> October, 1918	St. Aubert, France	Gunner Alder Atkinson HARVEY
24 <sup>th</sup> October, 1918	Capelle-Beaudignies, France	Private Samuel ROBINSON
<b>31<sup>st</sup> October, 1918</b>	<b>Vichte, Belgium</b>	<b>Private Henry JEFFERSON</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> November, 1918	Bedlington	Shoeing Smith Henry JENNINGS
6th November, 1918	Landrecies, France	Private William John ANGUS
<b>17<sup>th</sup> December, 1918</b>	<b>Pemba, Mozambique</b>	<b>Private George Price CHILTON MM</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> January, 1919	Bedlington	Serjeant Frederick CARRUTHERS

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Last Known Address	Children	Age
1, Brick Row, Bank Top	1 child	aged 25
Boathouse Terrace, Cambois	1 son	aged 27
North Blyth		aged 34
Old Institute, Cambois		aged 20
11 ½ Pioneer Terrace	2 sons	aged 34
2, Gees Houses, Cambois		aged 30
River View, Bank Top		aged 19
Bedlington 'A' Pit		aged 25
<b>121, North Row, Bedlington Station</b>		<b>aged 22</b>
<b>15, Chapel Row, Cambois</b>		<b>aged 25</b>
20 ½ Victoria Terrace	1 daughter	aged 24
24, Bridge Street, Cambois	1 daughter	aged 28
4, Bridge Terrace, Bedlington Station		aged 23
10, Jubilee Terrace	1 child	aged 24
1, Bridge End, Bedlington Iron Works		aged 19
<b>23 ½ Victoria Terrace</b>	<b>3 children</b>	<b>aged 29</b>
Mansion House, Bank Top		aged 26
2, Red Row, Bedlington Station	1 daughter	aged 31
<b>66, South Row, Bedlington Station</b>		<b>aged 29</b>
2, Pioneer Terrace	2 sons	aged 31

## ARMISTICE DAY

At 11 am on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month 1918, the guns finally fell silent. The armistice marked the end of the bloodiest conflict that the world had ever seen. Four years of horror that resulted in 20 million deaths and 21 million wounded.

Historians have categorised the First World War as the first 'Total War'. For the first time there were significant numbers of innocent civilian casualties, more than 8 million civilians were killed in Europe, Africa and Turkey. For the first time aeroplanes, tanks and submarines were used as weapons. This was an industrial war. It is estimated that over 8 billion bullets were fired, and 1.5 billion artillery shells. Even today, 100 years later, French and Belgian farmers are uncovering up to 200 tons of steel in the ground every year. This is known as 'The Iron Harvest'.

Although 11/11/1918 was the end of the fighting, it was not the end of the war. The First World War did not officially end until seven months later, when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919 and registered with the newly-formed League of Nations. In that seven month period, troops were still deployed in Europe in case fighting flared up again.

The last casualty from our parish before the armistice was Private William John Angus of the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Manchester Regiment. Bill was 31 years old and lived at 2, Red Row, Bedlington Station. He was shot in France on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November, 5 days before fighting stopped. He left a wife, Isabella, and a small daughter. Two more local men died later of their wounds: Private George Chilton of 66, South Row, and Serjeant Fred Carruthers of 2, Pioneer Terrace.

As if the war were not horrific enough, 1918 saw the start of what has been called the greatest medical holocaust in history: the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918/20 caused the deaths of at least 50 million worldwide, around 3% of the world's total population at that time. Many believe that it was spread so quickly due to the large concentrations of men in the trenches.

At the time, the war was called 'The War to End All Wars'. Everyone agreed that destruction and misery on this scale would never be allowed to happen again. However, twenty years later, on September 3 1939, with resentment and unrest still simmering throughout the world, war in Europe was declared once again.

The Second World War, which raged across the globe for six years, was even more destructive than 'The Great War, and resulted in 60 million deaths.



## THIEPVAL

Thiepval Memorial, France

Between Amiens and Arras

500 miles from home

***“Here are recorded the names of men of the British Armies who fell on the Somme battlefields, but to whom the fortune of war denied the known and honoured burial given to their comrades in death. “***

Because men who enlisted together, went into battle together, July 1st 1916 was a black day for Bedlingtonshire. When they ‘went over the top’, each man was carrying some 70 pounds of equipment – in most cases more than half his own bodyweight – and they were instructed to WALK towards the German trenches, across muddy ground strewn with the barbed wire which the shelling had not destroyed. A German listening post had picked up the ‘good luck’ message sent out by a British staff officer, and the machine gunners were prepared for the coming attack. Tough coal miners they were, but this was a challenge over which they had no control. Even those who survived may never have worked again.

The Thiepval Memorial commemorates 72,246 men of British and South African forces who died during the Somme offensive of 1916 and have no known grave.

Each year on July 1st, a ceremony is held at the memorial to mark the first day of the Battle of the Somme, when 29 men from this parish alone were killed.

**19 children in Bedlington Station were orphaned on this single day.**

These two very different memorial messages were published in local newspapers in 1917, one year on :

***A British hero to the heart,  
His precious life he gave;  
He died upon the battlefield,  
The British flag to save.***

***Out in a lonely churchyard  
Amidst the shot and shell,  
Where our dear son lies asleep,  
He for King and country fell.***

***In the bloom of life death claimed him,  
In the pride of his manhood days,  
None knew him but to love him,  
None spoke his name without praise;***

***If those who made this awful war  
Were the ones to fight,  
There would be less sorrow in hearts  
In many homes tonight.***

THIS IS WHERE OUR RESEARCH BEGAN



Cambois Memorial



St John's Memorial



The Determined Women They Left Behind





## POSTSCRIPT

In 1914, Cambois Colliery employed 1019 men and the Bedlington 'A' Pit 1026 men.

Not one of the men who enlisted here was born in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and their parents and most of their grandparents had known only one monarch – Queen Victoria. In some ways it could be an exact parallel with today, but how to put ourselves in the minds of these men and their families? Their grandparents had shared their time with the American Civil War, Custer's last stand, the Boer War. They had known a world without moving pictures, without motor vehicles, without barbed wire. Their spirit of camaraderie lifted them; they lived together, worked together, died together. On our list is Shoeing Smith Henry Jennings; and he was needed in the British Army : in 'The Great War' horses were central to the action and some 8 million died.

These men believed that 'their King and their Country needed them so' as the song has it, and surged to join the fight without ever understanding its causes. Now 'The Great War' has become an industry, described in countless thousands of books, films and magazines; but it is fact, not fiction, and we have tried here to hint at the effect on communities so many miles away from the war zone, and in so many countries.

Talking to school-children reveals just how remote that time feels. When a world without holidays and wi-fi seems unlikely, the task of reaching into the minds of a century ago is a challenge. And yet, these stories of unquestioning courage and devastation do still have the capacity to touch our emotions.

Two men from Cambois were taken as prisoners of war;

One world-famous surgeon, born in Bedlington Station, was decorated by both the British and the French for his work in helping the wounded;

One lady teacher from the Station School was a distinguished nurse during 'The Great War'.

In 2016, to commemorate 100 years since the death of one young soldier from the Bedlington 'A' Pit, a tub of Bedlington soil from the street where he lived, was taken to France and spread over his grave. He now lies under both French and British soil.

***We plan to share these stories, and more, in future editions of our Parish Newsletter.***

The Armistice meant a cease-fire for all combatants, and a chance to bury their dead. This German Memorial Stone reveals thousands of men, many no doubt coal miners, in a common grave.



East Bedlington Parish Council wishes to place on record its thanks to Carole Fife for her countless hours of research in helping to create this special edition of the Parish Newsletter and to Len Smith of Station Art Group for permitting publication of his original painting.



# EAST BEDLINGTON Parish Council



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