

# World War I in Shetland



Primary 1-2

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## The First World War 1914-1918

The First world War began in the summer 1914. More and more countries got involved and the fighting spread around the world.

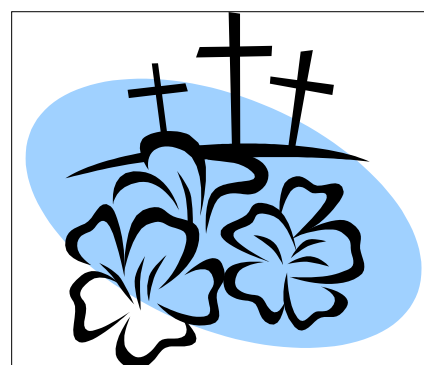
Germany and Austria-Hungary went to war against Britain, France and Russia.

In total, over 30 countries were involved.



Battles took place on land, at sea and even in the air.

The war lasted 4 years.  
It ended in 1918.



## The First World War

### Shetland before War

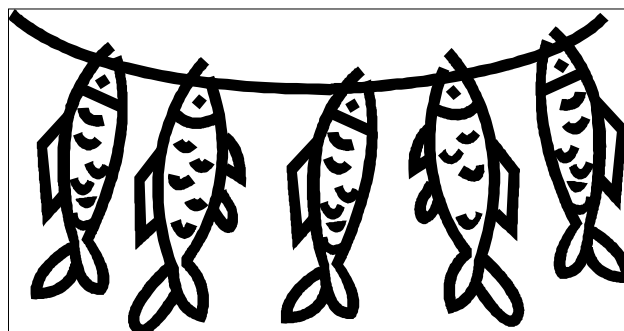
Many people lived in the country and worked on crofts.



Women shearing corn at Brouster

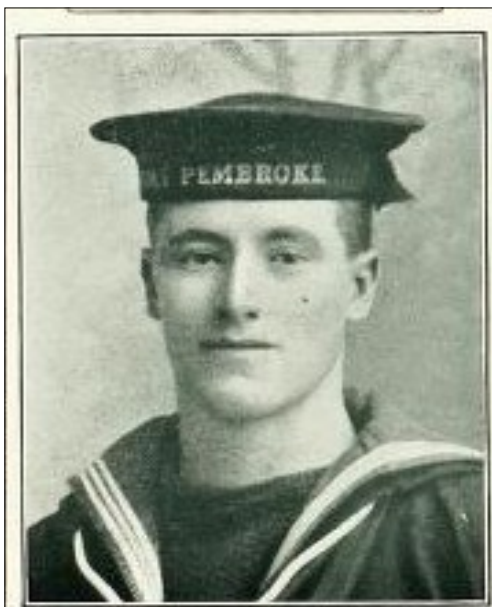
Women and children worked on the crofts. They also sold knitted jumpers to buy things like sugar.

Men were away at sea or fishing most of the time.



## The First World War

### Beginning of War



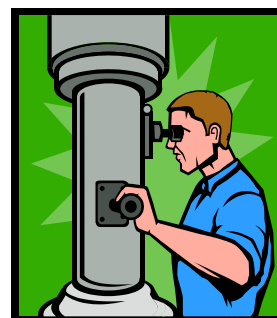
Some Shetland men went away to fight as soldiers. Others went into the navy to serve on ships.

Local men too young or too old to fight stayed at home and helped keep everyone safe.



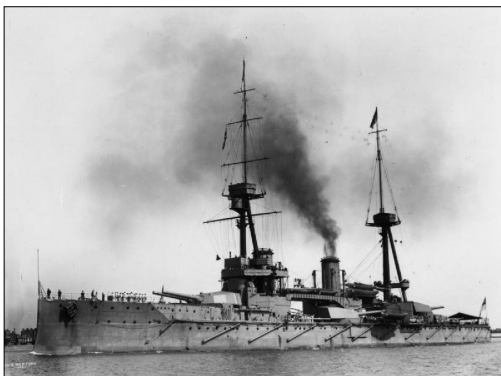
Sandwich Cable Guard

5500 Shetland men went out to fight with Britain in the war.



# The First World War

## At Sea



### Warships

As the War continued, British and Germans battled for control of the seas.

### Submarines

German submarines sailed the Atlantic Ocean, attacking British ships with torpedoes.



The battles on the sea were known as naval battles.

Working on ships was dangerous. Ships were often sunk by enemies.



Shetlanders fought in all the biggest battles at the sea.

Shetland Naval Reserve



## The First World War

### Away to fight

Lots of Shetland men trained to become soldiers and went out to fight in the war.



Most of the fighting took place in Europe.



Tanks were used for the first time in the First World War. Tanks were so called because they looked similar to water tanks.

Shetlanders served in many countries across the world such as France, Russia, Egypt and Palestine.



Shetland women helped soldiers by knitting jumpers and sewing clothes. They made thousands of knitted items throughout the war.

# The First World War

## At Home

Prices of food were expensive in shops. Most islanders grew vegetables and raised animals on crofts.

Many men and horses that used to work on the crofts were now at war.

Post Offices in Shetland were open night and day to send and receive important messages.



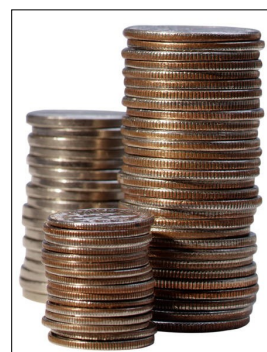
Lerwick Post Office



Collecting eggs at Cunningsburgh

Eggs were collected and sent to Aberdeen to the soldiers in hospitals.

People raised money and collected used clothes.





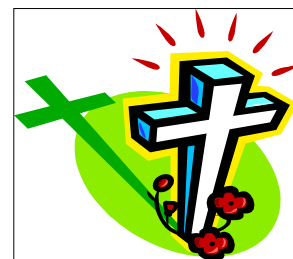
# The First World War

## End of War

### Armistice

A deal to stop fighting was made on the 11th November 1918. The War was finally over.

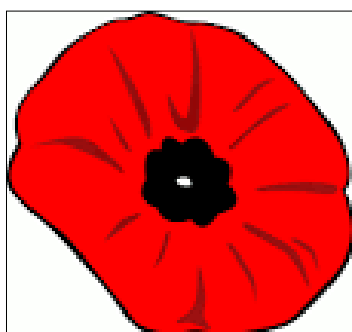
Many Shetland men died during the war. Some were lost at sea or died from being injured by the enemy.



A War Memorial was built at the Hillhead in Lerwick and at other places in Shetland.



Unveiling the War Memorial at Hillhead, Lerwick



November is the time of the year when people wear a red poppy in memory of those who has lost their lives during wars.

## The First World War

### After the War

How people celebrated  
the end of the war in  
Lerwick:

Bell ringing  
Ships sirens  
Rockets were fired  
Flags and bunting  
Brass Band played  
People sang songs



Peace Celebration parade at the  
Esplanade, Lerwick

There weren't many jobs for Shetland people after the war and many chose to move away to find better jobs.



In 1919, Shetland's Roll of Honour and Roll of Service was published. It was a book listing people to be remembered for their brave action during the war.