



Wreath laid in Shetlands

Crosses Delivered

12 March 2017
Able Seaman
Francis Cartland
Royal Navy
Mr Harry Edwards
Memorial to E49
Island of Unst
Shetland



Not many people in Thame will have ever heard of Unst, Balta Sound, or Huney Island, yet the community of this small and remote northern outpost of our United Kingdom have recently played a part in delivering the Thame Remembers Project.

Early in March 1917 the German mine-laying vessel UC76 left Heligoland and laid mines off Cromarty before proceeding to set a minefield off Baltasound, which was

Harry Edwards, who led the project, laid a wreath on behalf of Thame Remembers. The wreath is the front one in the photograph.

the base for British submarines patrolling the seas around Shetland. At 12.55 pm on 12 March HM Submarine E-49 left Baltasound and passed behind Huney, when suddenly there was a loud explosion and a column of smoke rose behind the island. E49 had hit a mine and exploded, killing all 31 of her crew, one of whom was Able Seaman Francis Cartland from Thame. The submarine sank in 30 metres of water leaving only a small amount of debris on the surface. The submarine was located by members of the Shetland Sub-Aqua Club in September 1988 and is now a designated war grave.

In October last year Thame Remembers was contacted by an archaeologist from the Shetland Amenity Trust who was working with the community of Unst to establish a memorial, overlooking the water where the incident occurred. Their vision was realised at an unveiling ceremony on the exact centenary of 12th March this year, during which a wreath was laid on behalf of Thame Remembers in memory of Francis Cartland.



The Shetland Times

For the full story of the wreath laying please go to:
<http://www.shetlandtimes.co.uk/2017/03/14/memorial-unveiled-unst-31-submariners-killed-1917>.





Harry takes a moment after laying the wreath



Francis Cartland

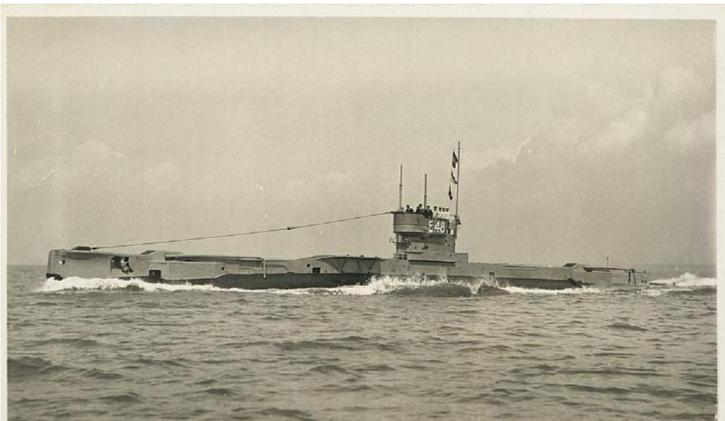
Francis Cartland was born in High Barnet, London on 3rd August 1893 to parents George and Edith Cartland, nee Hammond, the youngest of seven children. George Cartland was a policeman who in 1899 took over as licensee of the Six Bells public house in Thame, Oxon, where he stayed until 1922. Both George (1925) and Edith (1920) were buried in Thame.

Francis joined the Royal Navy "Boy" service on 16 Dec 1907 when he was only 14 years of age and telling the Navy that he was born on 3rd August 1891. He served as a "Boy" on training ships President, Ganges and Cressy and then as an Ordinary Seaman on HMS Illustrious in 1910 at age 17. He quickly gained promotion to Able Seaman and served on many ships including; Attentive, Excellent, Topaz, Minerva and Princess Royal. In January 1916 he was posted to HMS Dolphin at Gosport which was the RN submarine base and training school and then to the submarine depot ship HMS Lucia. He returned to Dolpin in December 1916 for training with submarine E49. Also in late 1916 he married Ada Elizabeth Rogers in Devonport, Plymouth, Devon. On 12th March 1917 he was killed with the rest of the crew when E-49 hit a mine.

His name is commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial and in Thame he is remembered on the town war memorial and on both St Mary's and All Saints church memorial boards.

HMS E-49

HMS E-49 was an E-class submarine built by Swan Hunter for the Royal Navy. She was commissioned in December 1916. It had a total length of 55 metres and a range of 3000 miles when travelling at 10 knots. E-class submarines were powered by diesel and electric motors and armed with 5 torpedo tubes and a 12 pounder gun.



Names for the War Memorial



Thame Remembers have now completed the first round of submitting names and supporting evidence, for scrutiny by a Town Council Working Group, of men who it is believed were missed off the Thame War Memorial and who can hopefully be added at a future date. From a total of 34 names submitted, 28 have been accepted and will be taken to Full Council at a future date for final approval and to determine how and when the additions can be made. The remaining six have been deferred for further consideration, allowing Thame Remembers researchers to seek more definitive evidence of their associations with the town. (See over for the list)

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This paper is intended as a digest of news items about the Thame Remembers project to keep the people of Thame up to date with what is happening.

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Battlefield Trip (19–23 May)

We are now in the final planning stage for our next Battlefield Trip in May. With a few seats on the coach available there is still time to book your place.

We will be visiting, in Belgium; Ypres (including the Menin Gate Last Post Ceremony on the Saturday evening), Poperinge, Hooge Crater and preserved battle field, Tyne Cot Memorial and cemetery, and Essex Farm Cemetery where John McRae wrote "In Flander Fields". And in France; Theipval Memorial to the missing of the Somme, Beaumont Hamel preserved battlefield, Lochnagar Crater, Fricourt German Cemetery, Arras town, Wellington Tunnels, Vimy Canadian memorial and trenches, and the new Ring of Remembrance at Notre Dame de Lorette commemorating 580,000 men lost in the battles in this area. There will also be time for shopping and lots of eating and drinking.



STOP PRESS Thame Remembers has yet to commemorate the nine men remembered on the Naval Memorial at Portsmouth, but we are now in the early stages of making the necessary arrangements. We envisage taking a coach party from Thame for the wreath laying ceremony, which we hope will be followed by a tour round a current naval vessel in harbour, and some free time to explore the Historic Dockyard or to visit the Mary Rose exhibition. This is likely to happen mid week around the middle of June, further information to follow in due course.

Thame Remembers is a project of Thame, Oxfordshire to commemorate the centenary of World War One by researching those from Thame who fell in all conflicts worldwide, and remembering them by placing a Thame Cross on their grave or memorial wherever in the world that may be. If you feel that you can help please contact Dave on 01844 21 5178.

Names to be added to war memorial

The names agreed by the committee to be added to the War Memorial are:

World War One

Sapper George Alfred Bateman
Royal Engineers — born in Thame

Private John William Bowler
Coldstream Guards — born in Thame

Private William Chowns
Canadian Infantry — born in Moreton

Private Sackville "George" Crick
Australian Service Corps — born in Moreton

Lt Col George Alfred Edsell
RAMC — MD & Mayor of Thame

Private Sidney Stevens Edwards
London Regiment — born in Thame

Captain Richard John Philip Hewetson
Loyal North Lancs — son of Vicar of Thame
lived in Thame

Gunner Harry Howland
Royal Artillery — born in Thame

Private Charles Roy Munckton Morris
Royal Fusiliers—born in Thame

Private George Asplin Pask
Middlesex Regiment—born in Thame

Sapper George Payne
Royal Engineers —born in Thame

Lance Cpl Reginald Phillips
Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry –born in Thame

Private Lewis Rhymes
Gloster Regiment — PC in Thame

Boy 1st Class Frank Tickner
Royal Navy — born in Thame

Private Alfred Willis
Durham Light Infantry — born in Thame

Private Harry Cooper Wilsdon
Middlesex Regiment—born in Thame

World War Two

Sub Lieut. Henry Bennet Cook
Royal Navy—lived in Thame

Private William Freeman
QO Royal West Kent Regiment –born in
Thame

Private Ronald Frank Harris
Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry –born in Thame

Private Charles Stanley Kiddy
Grenadier Guards—lived in Thame

Private William James Lewis
Household Battalion — lived in Thame

Captain Sidney Maskell-Dicker
Wiltshire Regiment — lived in Thame

Sergeant Norman Kenneth Millard
Royal Air Force — lived in Thame

Sergeant Ian Malcolm Keith Miller
Royal Air Force — buried in Thame

Sergeant Herbert John Ody
Royal Air Force — lived in Thame

LAC John Eric Jesse Phillips
Royal Air Force — born in Thame

Cpl Thomas John Tims
Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry –lived in Thame

Cyprus Emergency

Warrant Officer Joseph Arthur Castle
Royal Engineers — born in Thame