



Thame Remembers News

September
2017
No 30

Naval Memorials

The commemoration of Chief Steward Albert Isaac Cumming last week marked completion of the Thame Remembers challenge in relation to naval casualties, and so provides an opportunity for us to look back over our achievements.

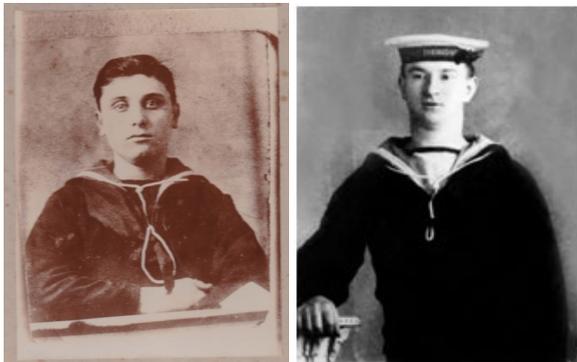
Eighteen men from Thame lost their lives in the two world wars (ten in WW1, eight in WW2) whilst serving at sea and, unsurprisingly, only three have a marked grave to which we could deliver a Thame Remembers cross. Most went down with their ships, which are now designated as ocean war graves, but all are remembered on the Naval Memorials at Portsmouth, Plymouth and Chatham, and the Merchant

Crosses Recently Delivered

26 September 2017

Chief Steward
Albert Isaac Cumming
HMHS Glenart Castle

Steve Lambell
Tower Hill Memorial
London



Wilfred Clarke and Fred North who both went down with HMS Formidable on 1 January 1915

Navy Memorial at Tower Hill.

Nine of the men, half of the total, are remembered on the memorial at Portsmouth so we made that a particularly memorable event on 14 June this year. Over twenty people from Thame, including the Mayor, were joined by the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Royal Navy personnel from HMS Dauntless, local naval veterans, and members of the Royal British Legion in a special commemoration complete with standard bearers and television coverage on BBC South.

People from Thame have also laid wreaths at Chatham, Plymouth and Tower Hill memorials and have delivered crosses to the graves of the three men interred on land, one of those being in Malta. Wherever possible we have

made a further delivery closer to the scene of the tragedy, having laid a wreath on the ocean above the wreck of HMS Vanguard in Scapa Flow, another overlooking Balta Sound off the isle of Unst in the Shetlands where HMSUB E49 was sunk by a mine, and one from the rear deck of the ocean liner Queen Mary over the resting place of the torpedo boat Branlebas. There may yet be more as, despite two years of frustration dealing with the Ministry of Defence, we are still hopeful that it might be possible to actually dive a wreck in home waters.

There are some especially poignant stories including Frank Tickner who was just sixteen and had only been given his first sea posting a few weeks before his ship was lost in an explosion; two men, Harry Clark and Fred North, who were both Stokers on the Battleship HMS Formidable, sunk on New Year's Day 1915. Albert Cumming on board the hospital ship HMHS Glenhart Castle, whose sinking by a German submarine was a war crime; and Bertram Wheeler Mason whose vessel HMS Clan McNaughton was lost at sea, fate unknown. We salute them all, we are privileged to have researched their stories and recorded them for posterity, and we are proud that the community of Thame have participated in honouring each and every one of them as part of the Thame Remembers project.



Francis Cartland WW1 and Jack Summersbee WW2 who both died in submarines



Llanddulas Remembers

Last week we at Thame Remembers were pleased to host a visitor from North Wales, representing the villages of Llanddulas & Rhyd-y-Foel where a project very similar to our own is proceeding successfully.

Wendy Williams is a keen historian with a passion for honouring the brave men and women that fought for our freedom, is compiling a dossier of the fallen from her community, and has visited many of the memorials and cemeteries in northern Europe.



We enjoyed a pleasant few hours learning about our respective projects and sharing our experiences.

Thame
museum

This newsletter is printed and published by Thame Museum Trust and distributed free to all

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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Plymouth and Tower Hill Deliveries

Steve Lambell, of Thame Players fame, ventured out from his office in the "City" to place a wreath at the Merchant Navy Memorial at Tower Hill. He had been promising to do this



for a while (2 years actually) and was delighted to achieve his task. As you can see the Memorial is huge and commemorates over 36,000 men of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets who gave their lives and have no grave but the sea.



Steve and Verity with baby Thea took the opportunity whilst on holiday in Devon last month to visit the Plymouth Naval Memorial and place a Thame Remembers wreath there.

The three Royal Navy war memorials are identical, designed by Sir Robert Lorimer in the form of an obelisk and constructed from Portland Stone, and each sited in a prominent position with the secondary purpose of providing markers for shipping. The three second world war extensions are more individual but all designed by Sir Edward Maufe.



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.