

Filey in the Great War of 1914—1918



If the Boer War marked the beginning of modern warfare then the First World War heralded its coming of age. The Great War for Civilisation as it was then known was war on an unprecedented scale, one the likes of which had never been seen. At its conclusion, millions of men would be buried somewhere in Flanders fields and tens of millions more would feel its consequences. Filey, like every other town in the country, had lost a substantial part of the younger generation with up to a sixth of Filey's men aged between 18 and 40 wiped out in four years of horror, pain and misery that touched every family in the nation in some way or another. The town's memorial commemorates the names of over seventy men who fell during the Great War, but this figure actually totals above one hundred when all those connected to the town who perished as a result of hostilities are included. In total an estimated 500 men left Filey to fight on either land or at sea, a massive contribution indeed for such a small locale.

In a way, Filey remained detached from much of which was going on for the first eighteen months of the war, and after the initial rush to volunteer in 1914 the flow of men leaving the town began to slow to a steady pulse. It was only when conscription was brought into force in early 1916 that Filey truly felt the grasp of the conflict around it. Many men who had thought themselves exempt for whatever reason were taken and transformed into part of a fighting unit, some more successfully than others. As for those who left in 1914 and 1915, a good number were members of the newly formed Territorial Army which came into being in 1908.

This was a total re-think of the vastly outdated Victorian militia, and with its inception consumed all the pockets of Volunteer groups within the country and re-attached them to currently standing regiments. For example, the Rifle Volunteers based in Scarborough were re-structured and re-named the 5th (Territorial) Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment (also known as The Green Howards). This unit left for France in early 1915 and took at least 13 Filey men with it as part of 'D' Company (which was known by the press of the time as the Filey Company); its latter commander, the then Lieutenant, Harold Brown was also a local man and schoolmaster. He was to become the most decorated Filey man of all time and would command his own unit, hold the rank of Major and be the possessor of the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.), Military Cross and bar (M.C.) and Croix de Guerre before his death in the last year of the war.



The thirteen Filey volunteers in the 5th Yorkshire's just prior to their departure in 1914; Lt. Brown is seated centre.

Throughout the war Filey held a local military tribunal which presided over a multitude of minor cases and charges. One of its main functions was that it had the authority to allow a man temporary or permanent exemption from military service; the main reasons were either 'protected' professions, such as fishing or other war manufacturing work, but also on the grounds of family hardships and ill health. Many men successfully applied for their freedom but several of the town's casualties were also in the military as a direct result of these tribunals; Dixon Overfield, Robert Colley, Walter Ellerker and Alfred Osborne all died in front-line infantry regiments in late 1917 having been conscripted for a variety of reasons less than eighteen months previously.

Filey itself had various military or pseudo-military organisations maintaining a presence in the town during the course of the war. One such group was the local V.A.D. (Voluntary Aid Detachment) hospital that was based on Rutland Street and where many men convalesced during the course of the war. Occasionally local men ended up there, like Frank Watkinson, a soldier of the 'Filey Company', who was seriously wounded no less than three times over the course of three years between 1915 and 1918. For the most part however they were from all over the country and were sent there for the fresh sea air and open spaces. The hospital had a staff of seven nurses and two doctors, the more senior being Dr Cecil Butler-

Simpson, Captain, R.A.M.C., and much of the local community rallied around this centre as there always seemed to be some form of fundraising activity being advertised in the press of the time. At the end of the war the supply of patients dried up, and the hospital was shut down once again to become a private residence. The accompanying pictures show the V.A.D. hospital with the staff outside on Rutland Street close to its junction with South Crescent Road; the exterior facade of this building remains very similar today.

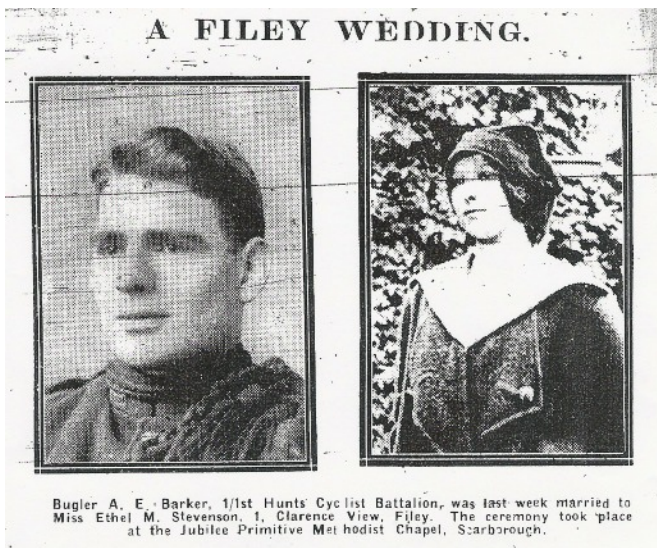


The hospital's Commandant, Mrs Janet Elizabeth Birch was mentioned in the London Gazette in January 1919 for her efforts throughout the war. Mrs Birch was one of the wealthier residents of the town, and the enterprise had seemingly been funded by her family who were intertwined and all Filey-based; her father Arthur Clay, a retired worsted manufacturer, had married a widower (Mrs Annie Birch) over a decade earlier and Janet in turn had married the new Mrs Clay's son from her previous husband (John Birch) two years later in 1904, and in doing so became a Birch herself. The Clay's / Birch's seemingly held residences elsewhere in Britain but were in Filey in the main throughout the Great War period.

The other major military unit within the vicinity was the Huntingdonshire Cyclists Battalion who were based in Filey but whose remit entailed 'defending' the entire coastline around this region. They were similar in many ways to the Sea Fencibles of a century earlier, and the Home Guard of the next war, but the major difference was that all were enlisted men and actively serving soldiers.

All the men had taken the Kings Colours in Huntingdon (around Peterborough) in 1914, but by the time the battalion was disbanded in the middle of 1916 many of the men had developed an affinity with the town and had married local girls, so their fate became inexorably linked with so many other Filey men. Several of their direct descendents still reside in Filey today and many, many more settled there after the war with at least three of the names on the Murray Street memorial being ex-Hunts Cyclists.

Right: Taken from the Scarborough Pictorial of 24th November 1915 announcements like these became increasingly common before the Hunts Cyclists left Filey for good in early 1916.



A lone sandy coloured war grave in St. Oswald's Churchyard marks probably the last reminder of the Hunts Cyclists in Filey today. Its owner, 286 Private Ernest Alfred Abbott, was one of the original members when he passed his medical in May 1914 and was declared fit for duty. His service papers, of which unfortunately only the first couple of pages survive, show him being a Gardener or Labourer by profession and had lived his whole life in the village of Brampton, Huntingdonshire from his birth in 1887 up until volunteering to serve. As the unit settled in Filey Ernest began courting a local girl, May Ann Stork and on 11 December 1915 (just a fortnight after the newspaper cutting shown) the couple were married. A few months later the decision was made that the Hunts Cyclists were to be disbanded and dispatched to serve with other units overseas, including Ernest. For a while he was transferred to a front line unit (the Royal Warwickshire's) but eventually moved back



to the UK to serve with the 683rd (Agricultural) Company, Labour Corps near Cambridge.

The Labour Corps was a particularly large unit during the Great War, with many different functions, but in its entirety was made up of those who were able-bodied but were still medically too unfit to serve in the trenches. Given Ernest's condition at the start of the war (A1) and his age it is only safe to assume that his reason for a transfer to the Labour Corps was due to wounds received in action, but with the destruction of the majority of his service papers this can never be fully verified.

Ernest's death however is not likely to have been related to his army career: he died just seven days after the Armistice which would seem strange for a serving soldier. What is often forgotten about this point in 1918 is that the entire country was reeling from the global influenza pandemic and that service personnel were just as susceptible as anyone else. Ernest's death from the 'flu would still have entitled him to a war grave as he was a serving soldier and it can be reasoned that this is the actual cause for his eventual demise.

The headstone to Ernest's grave bears the regimental insignia of the Hunts Cyclists, which given that the unit ceased to be two years previously is highly unusual, particularly as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission usually use the last serving unit as the headstone decoration (the Labour Corps in this case) but this memorial at least means that the symbol of the Hunts Cyclists will remain prominent in Filey for many years to come. It remains one of only 29 examples of Hunts Cyclists headstones in the world.

Following the Hunts Cyclists were the 3rd/8th (Reserve) Battalion, Manchester Regiment whose role was not so much home defence but training and equipping recruits to go and then join their sister units, the 1st/8th, and later 2nd/8th, (Territorial) Battalions, Manchester Regiment on the Western Front. They remained as a presence in Filey right up until the cessation of hostilities, and if their

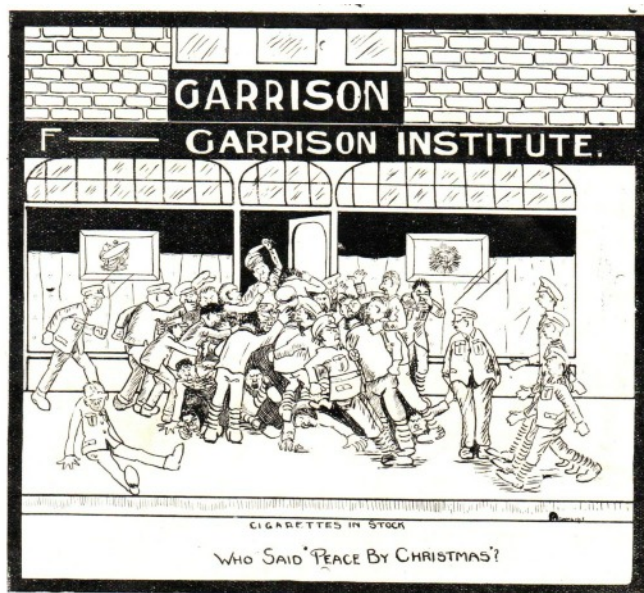
magazine *The Periscope* is anything to go by, had a good rapport with the local townspeople. This magazine gives a great insight into life on the Home Front, and the kind of community events, such as local Variety shows and Whist drives that continued all the way past the end of 1918.

They were responsible for laying the foundations of some of the first structures at Primrose Valley and arrived there in June 1917, having to live under canvas for a lengthy period whilst building work went on. They also constructed a series of 'considerable' trench systems and a sea-facing machine gun nest, the partial remains of which still stand today perched atop the cliffs at the foot of the Reighton Sands beach entrance. This system would have been tested soon after its completion when in September 1917 a Zeppelin supposedly passed over Filey Town, causing panic. No mention is made directly in the press of the time, but local heresay from certain older Filey historians, combined with several less than cryptic comments in *The Periscope* would seem enough to substantiate the event. The cover of this booklet shows one of the final images from *The Periscope*, which was drawn by one of the Manchesters just after the Armistice and sums up the 'devil may care' attitude that is so often portrayed when looking at Great War culture. Note the Brigg in the background, and what appears to be a mast on top of it; no trace of this structure remains today, although this was primarily used by the Coast Guard.

Another clue is found in a snapshot 'round up' of the battalions time in the same edition as the illustration which identifies one of the photos as '*Musketry Field Practise, Filey, 1917*' (shown below).



Despite this poor quality thumbnail picture, we can see that a range had been set up in what looks to be the Crescent Gardens, in front of what is now the White Lodge Hotel. The Brigg is in the background and so the range would presumably be parallel to the Crescent buildings themselves. There is the path running next to the cliff edge with what appears to be a tripod stood in the middle of it and a ground of soldiers stood nearby. A wooden frame can be seen on the grass in the left foreground. Throughout hostilities the Manchester's Regimental Institute, where much of the socialising occurred was held in what is now Cairncross & Sons on Belle Vue Street, with the hall upstairs being used for dancing whilst the ground floor remained the bar.



Above: another of the Periscope images from their December 1918 issue. The caption illustrates the effect rationing continued to have even after the end of the war.

One of the most endearing features about this magazine is its lighthearted humour and tongue in cheek approach from many of its contributors. Each issue had a section known as '*Kanteen Kweries*' which incorporated questions from and about the troops themselves: each issue normally listed 50 or so of these one liners. The majority were in-jokes between soldiers, but Filey and its residents crop up

with increasing regularity. Clearly, censorship was in place but with the term F--y being used throughout it leaves little doubt as to where the men are referring to!

Here are a selection of these 'Kweries' dating from late 1917 to when the battalion left. They reveal some interesting 'snippets' of life in Filey both for locals and also for visiting servicemen:

- *Is it true that a certain lance corporal in the Lewis Gunners [Machine Gunners] spends all his pay on a fair damsel at F---y and has not a copper left for the weekly tent collection for candles?*
- *Is the bread machine at Primrose Valley an ally or an enemy? Is the above mentioned machine responsible for the term 'Sign of the Valley'? Is the above term also connected to bandaged thumbs?*
- *Was it a coincidence that the afternoon following the Zep raid, the regimental band opened with "Angels that around us hover?"*
- *Whether the piano in the Foords was washed up with the Ark? [The Foords was the Sergeants mess throughout this period].-Whether the band are getting a great name locally in F---y?*
- *Who was the private who, when returning from R-----n at dusk one Sunday evening, came out with the remark to an officer 'have you got a match chum?' and the officer simply smiled at the joke?*
- *Who was the corporal of P----- Valley who asked a lance-corporal for the loan of his photograph in order to choke off a girl who persisted in writing him but had never seen him?*
- *Who was the N.C.O. who was heard on the Golf Links informing his female friend about the hardships endured abroad? And is it true he has been no further than F---y?*
- *The soldiers are not at F---y to amuse the residents. Will the ----- instructors take note?*
- *Who was the batman who awakened his comrades to look at the Zepps. and whether they were pleased when they found only stars?*
- *Did the 'local profiteer' sketch in our Xmas number prick the conscience of one of the F---y folk?*
- *Who was the N.C.O. that carried a lamp all the way from Cliff Farm to the Coble guard at F---y, and is it true that on striking a match he found it had no wick in it?*
- *Is it a fact that the residents of F---- have named Clarence House 'Hungry Hall' or 'Poverty Palace'? [Clarence House is located on West Avenue].*

-Who is the budding R.A.F. who said that when he was flying over the sea he would have corks on his aeroplane so he wouldn't drown? If it is true, that the fishermen of F---- have offered to give him the corks from their nets for such a purpose?

The Scarborough Press were also very thorough when discussing serving soldiers during the period of 1914 to 1916; the patriotism of the nation ran high, and up until the Somme on 1st July 1916 it was still possible to print photos and reasonably detailed information about troops serving abroad. In 1915 the Scarborough Pictorial enjoyed a near weekly feature of 'Patriotic families doing their bit for the war' whereby they would dedicate nearly a full page to large families who had sometimes up to fifteen men serving – fathers, sons, brothers, grandsons and even occasionally the odd daughter! Unfortunately by 1917 and 1918 they were often printing the obituary notices for some of these very same men.

There were two editions of the Scarborough Pictorial dedicated to patriotic Filey families; the Watkinson's and the Pashby's & McIntyre's. The second of these two groups is shown on the following page and their family survived virtually intact as out of their serving eight men folk all returned, although two were invalided out of the army. The Watkinson's were not so lucky. Out of the twelve brothers, brother in laws and father two were to lose their life with at least another two permanently disabled; tragically this scenario was not even uncommon for the period nationally.

The original text accompanying the following picture read:

This is another instance of Filey patriotism—three sons and four son-in-law's serving their King and country. (1) Sgt. H. Marriner, son-in-law. (2) Private A. Pashby, 1st Yorkshire Regiment, son. (3) George McIntyre, Merchant service, grandson. (4) Lance-Corpl. T. H. Pashby, Green Howards, son. (5) M. Green, Minesweeper, son-in-law. (6) George McIntyre, Minesweeper, son-in-law. (7) Lance-Corpl J. Pashby, 5th Yorks, son.



War Stories

The men of Filey who fought and perished came from all different walks of life within the community, and ranged from being aged seventeen (George Russum, a naval cadet who died whilst training) through to sixty-three (Mark Scotter, who died as a result of U-Boat action out at sea). Two of their stories are told here, with the only common link being that they were Filey Company men; other than that their lives could not have been more different, but both their stories deserve putting to print to demonstrate the impact the war had on the town.

Tommy's story: Filey's first casualty

2248 Pte. Thomas Jenkinson born 1896 in Filey, died 25th April 1915 (aged 19)

Tom Jenk came from a fishing family and had fished with his father since leaving school. He and his father and mother, Thomas

Robert and Elizabeth Towse Jenkinson, lived at 'Fortuyn', 57 Mitford Street in the heart of Filey and at the declaration of war on 4th August 1914 volunteered to go with the local territorials to war and took his place in history as one of the original thirteen locals in the Filey Company. Several other Filonians also had their own Signalling section within the same battalion. The battalion were already at their annual camp in Deganwy, Wales at the time but were ordered to pack up camp and be ready to move at a moments notice. On 2nd August this order came and Tom had only arrived back in Filey at around midnight of the 3rd/4th August before he received the expected call up the next day at 6pm. The 5th Battalion marched from their Scarborough H.Q. with full kit the following afternoon (the 5th) for their new training ground. After several more brief stops they were eventually settled at Newcastle-on-Tyne where they stayed until travelling to Southampton for their 'big adventure'.

Below: Tom Jenkinson in 1914.



When Tom and the rest eventually arrived in France on 17th April 1915 they were posted around Ypres and very quickly saw heavy fighting. This was the 2nd Battle of Ypres, where the German Army first used mustard gas against the Allies, inflicting horrific casualties. Tom was spared this, but was tragically killed just two days later in a raid on an abandoned farmhouse housing a German machine gun nest. His parents received a letter from Captain Thompson, 'D' company commander, but also one from Lt. Brown, part of which read *"It will be some small comfort to you that your son was a capable soldier and was popular with all his comrades and will be missed by both them and his officers. Please accept my deepest sympathies..."*. Tom had been in France for a mere seven days; he had barely turned nineteen and the majority of his adult life had been spent training for this moment.

The machine gun nest was never taken, and Tom's body never

recovered so he is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial for all the soldiers who fought at Ypres, and whose bodies were lost. He was one of the first Filey men to enlist, but also the very first to die. Out of those original thirteen in 'D' Company, 5th Green Howards at least four would lose their lives and another two would be permanently disabled by the end of 1918.

A sad final note to add is the address given on enlistment was that as shown above, but on the Commonwealth War Graves website this is preceded by the name of the house, Fortuyn. More detailed records of the 5th Green Howards on 25th April 1915 (Mark Marsay's book *Baptism of Fire* chronicling the battalion history in 1915) give the group's location not as St. Julien but the tiny farming hamlet of Fortuin (or Fortuyn).

The hero of Petit Bois: Major Brown of the Green Howards

Captain (acting Major) Harold Brown born 1879, died 23rd March 1918 whilst commanding the 4th Green Howards (aged 38)

One of the true forgotten heroes from Filey in the Great War, Harold Brown came from a middle class, well-to-do family in Bournemouth. He studied at Cambridge and obtained a B.A. which he decided to use to train as a teacher. After qualifying he and his wife Dorothy moved to Filey to work in a small but well respected preparatory school in one of the surrounding villages. Their home was 61, West Avenue and it is from this unremarkable background that the story begins. Whilst at Cambridge Harold joined the local Officer Cadet Force and by the time he had completed his degree had obtained the rank of Captain. He resigned before he left for Filey but this gave him something most officers at the start of the Great War didn't have, the experience of leading and training men.

At the outbreak of war he enlisted into the 5th Green Howards and was re-commissioned as a Lieutenant who was second in command of 'D' Company. He arrived in France with Tommy Jenkinson and the other Filey men but during the farmhouse raid on the 25th, when Tommy lost his life, Harold distinguished himself by going out by himself into no-mans land after nightfall to bury a fallen comrade and retrieve vital information.

Three months later, on 24th July 1915 Brown was awarded the

Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.) for a daring and highly successful raid on enemy trenches and was given a promotion to Captain. He continued to make a name for himself as in May 1916 he successfully led a raid on a heavily fortified crater called 'Petit Bois'; his sheer determination was rewarded with the Military Cross for this action. Unfortunately, Harold's luck ran out when in September 1916 he took the full blast of a shell which incapacitated his right foot and left him permanently deaf in one ear. Once he recovered from this he was back at the front, despite the fact that had he chosen to, he would probably have been allowed an honourable discharge on the grounds of medical infirmity. Harold returned to France and in December 1916 was awarded the Croix de Guerre and a mention in dispatches as well as a promotion to Acting Major. Harold lasted another four months before he was seriously wounded on the 28th April 1917 after a bullet went through his thigh and a shell exploded in extremely close proximity to his head. It looked bad for Harold at this point; his thigh wound became infected and covered with abscesses and he was complaining of excruciating headaches as well as a numbness in his right hand from his 1916 wound.



Above right: Harold Brown in 1917.

It took nearly four months of recuperation before he was declared fit for duty again; never to be inactive though he spent much of this recuperation time when eventually on furlough going round the families of Filey men in his unit reassuring them as to their loved ones well-being. This act of kindness endeared him to many of those in the town, and the Scarborough papers commented on this fact in

several instances. Between August and December 1917 Harold was second in command of the 5th Green Howards but at the start of 1918 was given his own battalion, the 4th Green Howards. This was to be his last command as on the third day of the German Spring Offensive of 1918 he was killed in action at Brie, near St. Quentin as Axis forces came close to permanently breaking the trench deadlock and were overrunning the British lines. It was a dark time for the Allied forces and it took several months of being hard pressed and suffering high casualties before they were back on track.

Harold was 38 years old at the time of his death; over the course of his military career he had been awarded five major gallantry awards and been in command of thousands of men. For a man who had started out as a local schoolmaster, he had come far, and survived much, but in the same way as Tommy Jenk paid the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

Along with the individual stories, groups of Filey men also served together, and none more so than its seafarers who made up a high proportion of its male population. The fishermen who kept the country stocked with fish during the hard (and oft forgotten) times of rationing in the Great War played just as much of a key role as those actively serving. Others, who were previously fishermen, were also often pressed into service as part of the Royal Naval Reserve if their vessel happened to be commandeered by the Admiralty for details such as mine sweeping or coastal patrols. Several of the casualties fell into this category and the following two stories relate to Filonians out at sea, one of which ends more happily than the other.

Where should you be, Boy? The story of the Edith Cavell

The *Edith Cavell* was commissioned as SH216 on 23rd June 1916 and was a herring drifter, like many other vessels in the area at the time. Her owner and skipper was George William Hunter, or 'Tuey' to give his Filey name, a lifelong fisherman who was born in 1875. The rest of the ship's crew consisted of: Richardson Avery Johnson (b. 1885), Gearman, William 'Stringer' Cammish, also a gearman, and John 'Jack' Harrison Cammish, Ships boy (b. 1899). However, for the Edith Cavell's last trip Skipper Tuey's young son,

George (born in 1902) also accompanied the crew.

On the night of Saturday 5th May 1917 the *Edith Cavell* and her crew left on their usual fishing run, and at about 5am Sunday morning were off the coast around Robin Hood's Bay when a U-Boat appeared through the morning fog on a collision course with the drifter. The skipper saw this and ordered that the lines were to be cut in order to take evasive action, although a marker was to be left, so that if necessary they could return later to retrieve their nets. However, the drifter was no match for a U-Boat and it did not take long for the German crew to board the vessel and George and his crew had no option but to surrender.

The commander of the U-Boat, Lt. Franz Walther was quick to deploy an explosives team aboard the *Edith Cavell* who planted bombs and explosives amidships in order to sink it quickly and effectively, and whilst this was occurring the Filey crew were transferred to the top deck of the submarine. The plan at this point was that the *Edith Cavell* was to be sunk, and her crew set adrift in the drifter's life-raft, knowing that they would be picked up relatively quickly. Unfortunately, this was not to be the case.

A nearby British patrol ship had picked up on the U-Boat's movements and had stealthily been approaching the *Edith Cavell*; it was virtually on top of the two crews as the events previously told had unfolded. The German submariners had just blown the explosives when they noticed the British vessel materialising out of the morning haze and the imminent danger became apparent. As Walther saw that his vessel was about to be sunk, he hastily told the crew to dive before casting the Filey crew adrift and consequently these men were forced below decks just as the British patrol arrived. The German submarine narrowly escaped, and when the panic had died down the men were interrogated one by one by the Lieutenant, although they were kept together (with the exception of the second in command who was separated but later returned to the rest of the crew).

Each man was questioned about the strategic defences of Britain and the East Coast, but each time the men replied that they were fisherman and had no knowledge of such things; this was in actual fact the truth as they had very little to do with military or naval operations. The story goes that these interrogations had taken

place between 7am and 11am and by the time the last crew member was questioned it was after 11. This was George junior, and when asked where he should be at this time on a Sunday morning he replied "Sunday school, sir!". The reply he received was "I'll see you're there next Sunday, then." and the crew were duly informed that they were to be cast adrift to return home.

Shortly after this piece of good news the U-Boat spotted a Norwegian Steamer, the *Harold*, which was quickly torpedoed and sunk. It was noticed that lifeboats had been launched before the boat sank, and Lt. Walther decided to place the *Edith Cavell* crew aboard one of these. At about 1pm, Sunday the crew departed from the submarine onto one of the Harold's lifeboats, where they met four of the crew from the ill fated steamer, the other five (including the Captain) having drowned aboard her. Three of the four were Norwegian, and one was a Swedish patriot.

The U-Boat left, leaving the two crews between 75 and 80 miles East North East of the River Tyne's mouth. They set about rowing and at about 11am on Monday morning reached Newton Bay, where they docked on dry land after 22 hours of rowing to tell their tale to unbelieving ears in Filey.

The Emulator: Filey's darkest day

It is ironic that the day Filey suffered its greatest loss of life in a single action was not during hostilities at all, but nearly a full five months later. Unlike many of the cities or towns across the country Filey did not sustain more than a few casualties in each of the major engagements in the trenches - the first day of the Somme and the start of the 1918 German Spring Offensive passed with just a couple of deaths each but when the steam drifter *Emulator* 'disappeared' in April 1919 seven Filey men were with her. The next page is a copied facsimile of the Press article from later on that week.

In a bizarre twist of fate a further two Filey mariners were drowned just a few days later in a totally unrelated incident (21st April 1919) when their vessel capsized not far away. They were Matthew Cammish and Mortimer Scales, both of whom had been out at sea throughout the duration of the war and had until then survived unscathed.

DRIFTER BLOWN UP. - *Grave News Reaches Scarborough.* - SEVEN FILEY MEN MISSING. - *Terrific Explosion Heard From Other Craft.*

News causing consternation and gloom was reported at the harbour on Wednesday Morning when the steam drifter TRYPHENA arrived with the distressing news that it was feared that the drifter EMULATOR had been blown up by a mine during the night.

A crew of seven Filey men were known to be on board the vessel, including three members of one family (Mr. Matthew Crimlisk) and two members of another family (Mr. William Jenkinson, first mate and his son). Grave fears existed that all were lost. The TRYPHENA, EMULATOR, and FEAR NOT departed in company for fishing grounds adjacent to Scarborough between 4-30 and 5 o'clock on Tuesday evening. The EMULATOR had only come from Grimsby, where it had been fishing for some time since being demobilised from the Naval Service at the weekend. During the night a terrific explosion occurred in the vicinity of the TRYPHENA and when a search by that vessel for the EMULATOR proved fruitless, it returned to port. The skipper reports having "spoken" to another vessel believed to be the FEAR NOT, after the explosion, but in the confusion and uncertainty which followed the identity of the vessel is not quite cleared up.

The arrival of the FEAR NOT was eagerly awaited, as it was thought that this vessel would be able to throw some further light on the tragedy, which was believed to have occurred. There was a chance that it might have survivors on board or report having seen wreckage.

- SUSPENSE AT FILEY. -

The report spread rapidly in Filey, where the greatest anxiety naturally prevailed, and repeated enquires for news were made by telephone to Scarborough. Hopes were built on the uncertainty of the news and it was certainly too early to suppose that if the EMULATOR had indeed been destroyed the crew had been picked up. The personnel of the crew is understood to have been Mr. Matthew Crimlisk, skipper, and his two sons, Mr. William Jenkinson, mate, and one son, also Mr. Richard Jenkinson, his cousin, and Mr. Richardson Cowling. The latter leaves several children. The skipper and Mr. William Jenkinson and Mr. Richard Jenkinson had only recently become part owners of the vessel. Another son of Mr. Wm. Jenkinson would have been on board had his demobilisation from the navy been secured as had been hoped, but which very fortunately was not the case. Presumably the explosion was that of a drifting mine.

- CONFIRMATION OF TRAGEDY. -

The FEAR NOT returned from sea at about three o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, and enquires show that smoke and flame were observed at 9.35 p.m. on Tuesday night when an explosion occurred which shook the vessel.

The FEAR NOT, like the TRYPHENA, made a search in vain for survivors or wreckage. There unhappily remains no doubt that the EMULATOR was lost with all hands. It transpires that the explosion was also observed and felt on the TRYPHENA."

A year after the cessation of hostilities Filey held its first remembrance service and also a series of events to celebrate peace, the culmination of which was a dinner at the '*The Grand*' on Union Street, for all serving or ex-serviceman of the town. Over 300 men attended at the venue which had been the focal point of much of the town's social gatherings between 1914 and 1918. Many of these returning men had been wounded or permanently incapacitated as a result of their time overseas and the war's legacy would live on throughout their generation.

Eighteen months later Filey unveiled its war memorial and gardens on Murray Street with the renowned Canon Cooper officiating over the service and Mrs Annie Culley, a widow and clothier from Union Street officially opening the stone arch on Whit Sunday of 1921. Mrs Culley had lost two of her four sons, Thomas and Reg, in 1916 and 1918.

The date, 21st May, was just a matter of days after the town's final known death due to the war. Drummer Frank Biggins had died of T.B. contracted whilst on active service and at the age of just 21 left a widow and child under a year old. He had been wounded and gassed in 1918 and though having attended the Peace Dinner and even rejoining the King's Colours for a short while in 1919 had deteriorated so quickly that the army granted him (and later his widow) a war pension. However, when he was laid to rest in St. Oswald's he was never given a war grave nor had his name placed on any of the town's memorials.

The memorial gardens have remained the focal point of Filey's remembrance ever since, and with names being added after the Second World War, the Korean War of 1950-53 and Aden, 1964 it continues to play as important a role today as it did nearly one hundred years ago.

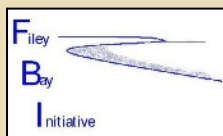


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Full digital copies of 'The Periscope' Magazine shown in this publication are available to view at the Crimlisk Fisher Archives, which is open on Wednesdays and Fridays between 10am and 12pm and is located at Filey Town Council Offices, 52A Queen Street, Filey.



Filey Bay Initiative:
www.discoverfiley.org.uk