



Protecting the Tyne: Tyne Pilots and the River Tyne at War

During the autumn term 2016 the Year 6 children and teachers Miss Pattison and Miss Christie at Hadrian Primary School, South Shields, investigated the loss of the Pilot Cutter *Protector* and the River Tyne at War 1914 - 18. Supported by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, they researched those killed in the conflict and buried or commemorated in St Aidan's and St Stephen's Church. They were fascinated to find that their local area had been in the front line of the conflict.



The *Protector* Memorial



Year 6 in the Memorial Garden

St Stephen's was known as *the Pilots' Church* and a glowing brass plaque records the loss of the *Protector*. Tragically on the December 31st, 1916, the Pilot Cutter was sunk by a mine, off the North Pier of the River Tyne. This was probably laid by the German submarine UC-31, under the command of Otto von Schrader.

Everyone aboard was killed including ten pilots, four assistant pilots and five crew. The oldest was veteran pilot Robert Phillips, then 70, while the youngest was cabin boy Bertram Rumney, only 15 years old. The small portrait shown at the top of these activity sheets is a photograph of Ralph.

These lesson plans and activities were written to support the children in their work. We hope pupils and teachers in other schools may find them informative and challenging.





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01 Researching First World War Headstones in St Stephens Memorial Garden

A blank record sheet for CWGC gravestones, together with a headstone image to practice completing the form before a site visit.

02 Discovering Lance Corporal Bower

A research case study featuring a soldier from Baring Street killed in 1916. The children will use a newspaper Roll Of Honour and the CWGC website.

03 The Bombardment of Hartlepool

A decision making activity based on the events of the bombardment, followed by an investigation of the famous James Clark painting.

04 Ruth Dodds' Diary

Transcribe a page from Ruth's Diary and find out about the German raid on Hartlepool in 1914.

05 South Shields in the First World War

Using a contemporary Ordnance Survey map to identify key local features and prepare a report by a German spy for a coastal attack or Zeppelin raid.

06 Reading the 1911 Census: Baring Street

Researching the 1911 census for a nearby street to investigate aspects of Edwardian family life and social conditions in the locality.

07 A Muse at Sea

Everyone knows the famous war poetry from the Western front but here are rarer First World War naval poems to stimulate creative writing on the conflict at sea and the loss of the *Protector*.

08 Problems for Tyne Pilots

A role play game showing the importance of the Tyne pilots in guiding ships into the river.

09 Zeppelins Over South Shields

Investigate the shock of enemy airships in the sky and make your own *Zeppelins over Shields* postcards.

10 Gott Strafe England

Analyse an image from this famous German propaganda campaign and design a new sticker. What weapon will you choose to smite England?

Acknowledgements:

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