

Discovering the people commemorated on the Lee-on-the-Solent war memorial from World War 1

Lesson Plan 2

Exercise 1: Discovering the names

Teacher notes.

10-15 minutes

We can discover their names in one of two ways:

- Visiting the war memorial and making your own recorded list
- Accessing the information via the Imperial War Museum Memorials Register
<https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials>

We have used the latter to create the list provided in the spreadsheet. Have a quick look at the Register and search for **Lee on the Solent** to see what you can find.

Now have a look at the names on the spreadsheet. Don't forget that behind these words typed on a page are people who lost their lives in war.

65 of these names (those in bold) were killed during World War 1 (others in WW2)

These names represent men (mostly young and only a few years older than you) who lived locally, went to school locally and lost their lives during WW1. Many local families in Lee-on-the-Solent lost a loved one who never came home. 65 men from a village with a population of less than 300 males of working age. What do you think this might have meant for the families and village community left behind?

They are listed in alphabetical order by surname. Where would your name fit in this list alphabetically?

Have you noticed that some of the surnames of these people are the same? Which ones are they? What do you think this might mean?

Some families lost more than one son to war, and others lost family in both World War 1 and then World War 2

With the help of local historians who have carried out a great deal of research in various archives, we also know the first names of these people which we have added to the spreadsheet. Do you know anyone in your circle of family and friends with any of these names? Perhaps even your own?

Exercise 2: Where did they serve and where did they die?

Teacher notes.

30 minutes



Now we know their names, we can find out about where these men fought and lost their lives by using another website created by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. This Commission is responsible for looking after all the cemeteries across the world where Commonwealth country citizens are buried who lost their lives when serving in the armed forces during conflict. They are also responsible for recording the names of these people so that we remember them.

We are going to use their website to find out where our people from Lee-on-the-Solent are buried and/ or remembered (commemorated). (This is usually close to where they lost their lives).

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/>

As a class, search for **William Herbert Adams** and **William Ayling, Hampshire Regiment** on the website (**select First World War box during search**) and complete the following fields on the spreadsheet as a class:

- Where are they buried/ commemorated?
- When did they die?
- What service or regiment were they in?
- What rank are they?
- How old were they when they died? (if shown)

Working in pairs, each group searches for 17 names on the website and adds the relevant information to the spreadsheet. Accuracy of data entry (spelling etc) is important here – both in terms of what is put into the search window of the website, and in terms of what is recorded on the spreadsheet.

(Clues are provided on the spreadsheet for those where more than one entry under a name will appear as a result of searching, to help them identify which one; and search advice for a couple of names is also provided on the spreadsheet for a few that are less easy to find)

Not all who died have a named grave; for those who do not (they were never found/ identified) their names are commemorated on a memorial close to where they died and are represented by a 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier'. This is a monument dedicated to the services of an unknown soldier and to the common memories of all soldiers of all sides killed in war. Throughout history, many soldiers have died in war with their remains being unidentified. Following WW1, a movement arose to commemorate these soldiers with a single tomb, containing the body of one such unidentified soldier. In the UK this tomb is at Westminster Abbey in London.

Class Discussion: What have you noticed about these people's histories as you have been researching them more? Has anything surprised you about what you have discovered?

Exercise 3: Where are they commemorated – preparing our Explorer map

Teacher notes

25 minutes

Last week you spent some time discovering personal stories on The Earth Museum World War 1 Explorer map. Over the next few weeks, we are going to create our own for this group and add the research you have uncovered. We will add content you prepared last week about your favourite people stories, and the information you have uncovered today about local people who lost their lives in World War 1 commemorated on the Lee-on-the-Solent war memorial.

To be ready to upload our 'data' in the spreadsheet onto a map in a couple of weeks' time, we need to prepare 3 more pieces of information:

- a) The location of the cemetery or memorial represented as its latitude and longitude so we can create a pin on its exact location [explain/ remind about these words and concepts if needs be]
- b) A personal observation (up to 50 words) about any of the people that learners looked at that they would like to share with others who will be viewing the map we create and publish
- c) An image to accompany each of the pin entries you are preparing. We will source these photos in a couple of weeks' time when we create our map

To find the latitude and longitude location we are going to use the following part of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website:

<https://www.cwgc.org/visit-us/find-cemeteries-memorials/>

You will find an example for locating the Thiepval Memorial based in the Somme area of northern France below.

Add your thoughts from today on our wall mural: what we can learn from the past to improve our lives in the present and future?



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INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

Due to the ongoing travel restrictions around Covid-19, please be aware that visiting a CWGC cemetery or memorial may not always be advisable. Please abide by the local advice for the region you wish to visit.

Country

Locality

[Use my current location](#)

Name

Number of casualties

War First World War Second World War

Type name of cemetery/ memorial into Name box. Click on **search** to take you to...

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SEARCH RESULTS

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Name: Thiepval Memorial War: First World War

SHOW 1 OF 1 LOCATIONS

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Name	Location	Number of Casualties
THIEPVAL MEMORIAL	Somme France	72174

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Results per page 1 page

Click on **More details...**

< Back to search results

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

Country	France	Total identified casualties	72333 Find these casualties
Region	Somme	Casualties from	First World War
GPS Coordinates	Latitude: 50.05081, Longitude: 2.68569		

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL IS CURRENTLY CLOSED

In 2016, we completed phase one of the restoration of the Thiepval Memorial, with work being undertaken to the roofs, rainwater pipes and brick masonry above the main arch.

We have now begun phase two. Inside the memorial we will be restoring and improving the internal drainage. Outside, we will restore the brick façade and ground level paving and will update and restore the commemorative name panels.

Throughout this period there will be no public access to the memorial **however the rest of the site including the cemetery at the foot of the memorial will remain open.** Visitors to the site can find up-dates about the ongoing restoration work, log on to the on-site Wifi and view our free digital exhibition - In the Shadow of Thiepval. Visit the CWGC trailer at the entrance for more information.

Find out more

Add the **Latitude and Longitude** information from **GPS Coordinates** to your spreadsheet.