Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy

Appendix 1: Theme 5d

Defence – Great War

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5(d) Defence Heritage – The Great War

1. Summary

As the closest county in England to continental Europe, Kent played a crucial role during the First Word War. Its coast and inland routes became heavily defended being the most likely target for an invasion by the Central Powers. The District was home to important training grounds and camps such as the Hythe School of Musketry and Shorncliffe Army Camp which made valuable contributions to the war effort. Important remains throughout the district, including practice trenches and sound mirrors highlight the dawn of modern warfare by the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 compared to earlier conflicts such as the Napoleonic Wars which have also left their mark on the District. Folkestone Harbour acted as an important departure point for soldiers bound for the Western Front as well as being a main port for wounded soldiers returning home and refugees from countries such as Belgium. Overall the District contains a number of significant remains that demonstrate the important role that the district played in the First World War.

2. Introduction

The First World War, also known as the Great War or World War I, was a global war that originated in Europe and lasted from the 28th July 1914 until the 11th November 1918. At its onset many had predicted that it would be over by the Christmas of 1914, however it dragged on for another four years and became one of the deadliest conflicts in history. More than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilised for military action in one of history's largest wars. By its close in November of 1918, the total number of deaths was between 9 and 11 million military personnel and around 6 million civilians. These figures were exacerbated due to the technological and industrial sophistication of modern warfare as well as from gruelling trench warfare, disease and several genocides. The First World War would pave the way for major political changes in many of the nations involved, including revolutions and unresolved rivalries that would ultimately contribute to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939.

Background

During the nineteenth century, a complex network of political and military alliances existed throughout Europe in attempts to maintain the balance of power. In 1815 this began with the Holy Alliance between Prussia, Russia and Austria. However, when Germany was united in 1871 Prussia became part of the new German nation which then in 1873 negotiated the League of the Three Emperors between Austria-Hungary, Russia and Germany. This agreement failed due to disagreements by Austria-Hungary and Russia over Balkan policy, leaving Germany and Austria-Hungary in a Dual Alliance formed in 1879. This was seen as a means of countering Russian influence in the Balkans, and in 1882 the alliance expanded to include Italy and became the Triple Alliance.

German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck had worked hard to avoid a war on two-fronts with France and Russia. However, with the ascension of Kaiser Wilhelm II this system of alliances was de-emphasised and in 1892 a Franco-Russian Alliance was signed to counteract the force of the Triple Alliance. In 1904, Britain signed a series of agreements with France, the Entente Cordiale, and in 1907 the Anglo-Russian

Convention was signed. Whilst these agreements did not formally ally Britain with France or Russia, they did make British entry into any future conflict that involved France or Russia a possibility. This system of interlocking bilateral agreements became known as the Triple Entente.

Following the unification and foundation of the German Empire in 1871, German industrial and economic power had grown significantly. An arms race between Britain and Germany for naval supremacy had begun and gradually spread to other European powers with efforts being devoted to the production of weapons and equipment for a pan-European conflict. Pressure in the Balkans was also building, and in 1908-1909 Austria-Hungary precipitated the Bosnian Crisis by officially annexing the former Ottoman territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This angered the Kingdom of Serbia and the Pan-Slavic and Orthodox Russian Empire, whose subsequent political manoeuvring destabilised peace accords throughout the already fracturing Balkans which became known as the 'powder keg of Europe'. First and Second Balkan Wars were fought between 1912 and 1913 which further destabilised the region. Whilst the Great Powers had so far been able to contain these conflicts to the Balkans, subsequent events would ultimately lead to the outbreak of the First World War.

On the 28th June 1914, the Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife visited the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo. A group of six assassins from the Yugoslavist group Mlada Bosna, supplied by the Serbian Black Hand, had gathered along the Archdukes progression through the streets of Sarajevo with the intention of assassinating him. The attempt initially failed, with a grenade that was thrown by one of the assassins missing the convoy and injuring many bystanders. It was by coincidence that when the convoy was later returning from a visit to the Sarajevo Hospital that they took a wrong turn into a street where one of the assassins was, and he was then able to shoot and kill the Archduke and his wife. The political impact of the event was significant and led to a month of diplomatic manoeuvring between Austria-Hungary, Germany, Russia, France and Britain known as the *July Crisis*.

Relations between Serbia and Austria-Hungary deteriorated, and finally resulted in the latter declaring war on the former on the 28th July 1914. The following day, Russia declared partial mobilisation against Austria-Hungary in support of Serbia, which then became a general mobilisation on the 30th July. Germany declared a 'state of danger of war' and issued an ultimatum to Russia to cease mobilisation and a commitment of non-support of Serbia. Another was also sent to France asking her not to support Russia if it were to come to the defence of Serbia. Following the Russian response on the 1st August, Germany mobilised and declared war on Russia.

The German government then issued demands to France stating that it would remain neutral as they had to decide which deployment plan to implement. The French did not respond but sent a mixed message by ordering their troops to withdraw 10km from the border whilst also mobilising her reserves. Germany responded by mobilising her own reserves and began implementing its deployment plan as she had been wrongly informed that Britain would remain neutral as long as France was not attacked. On the 2nd August Germany attacked Luxembourg and then declared war on France the following day. On the 4th August Belgium refused to

permit German troops across its borders into France and so Germany also declared war on Belgium. By the end of the 4th August 1914 Britain had declared war on Germany following an unsatisfactory reply to a British ultimatum that Belgium must be kept neutral.

The German Empire and Austria-Hungary became known as the Central Powers being the 'central European states'. The Ottoman Empire entered the war later in October of 1914 joining the Central Powers, and then followed by Bulgaria in October of 1915. On 5th September 1914, Russia, France and Britain concluded the Treaty of London which promised to not make any separate peace with the Central Powers. Collectively they became known as the Entente or the Allies. Other countries would later join the Allies which included Italy, Japan, Belgium, the United States and Greece as declarations of war began flying across Europe.

In August 1914, Kent's defences against a German invasion consisted of the recently modernised gun batteries at Dover and at the mouths of the Medway and Thames. Much of the coastline was undefended by modern structures or artillery, with only the surviving buildings from a string of Napoleonic defences being located along the Kentish coastline including the Martello Towers and Batteries. Defences were geared towards the traditional threat of a seaborne bombardment and landing, though the First World War also brought with it the possibility of an aerial attack. There was an initial reliance on the ability of the Navy to protect the country, though additional measures inland would soon follow to address the methods of modern warfare. The district was again geographically and symbolically placed on the front-line as it had been during the previous century against the perceived threat posed by the French during the Napoleonic Wars. The outbreak of the First World War would see the addition of defensive measures across the District, as well as its port at Folkestone acting as a point of entry and embarkation for large numbers of troops, personnel and refugees.

The first few months of the war were largely characterised by various bold attacks and rapid troop manoeuvres. Germany had intended to hold off the Russian forces in the east and swiftly knock France out of the war using a manoeuvre known as the Schlieffen Plan. This plan would march the German armies through northern Belgium and into France in an attempt to encircle the French army and then breach the fortresses of Verdun, Paris and the Marne River. It had almost worked until the German forces were sent east of Paris to engage and weaken the French army, which exposed the right flank to counterattack by the French and British Expeditionary Forces resulting in the First Battle of the Marne between the 6th and 12th September 1914. By the 12th September, the French with British assistance had halted the German advance around Paris and pushed their forces back by around 30 miles.

At the same time, in the east Russia was attempting to invade with two armies. Germany rapidly moved the 8th Field Army to the invasion of East Prussia from its original role in the invasion of France and defeated the Russians in a series of battles collectively known as the First Battle of Tannenberg (17th August – 2nd September 1914). Whilst the Russian invasion had failed, it had caused a diversion of the German forces east which allowed for the Allied victory at the First Battle of the Marne. Ultimately, Germany had failed to achieve its objective of avoiding a war

on two-fronts though it had established good defensive positions inside of France. The casualties suffered by the Allies were greater than those of the German forces, though problems with communications and questionable command decisions had cost Germany a decisive outcome to the war.

It didn't take long for the District to be thrust into the throes of the war. Following the German invasion of neutral Belgium in early August 1914, thousands of Belgian citizens began to flee across the Channel to Britain landing at ports that included Margate, Dover and Folkestone. Official records estimate that around 250,000 Belgian refugees came to Britain between 1914 and 1918 leaving few communities across the UK unaffected by their arrival. On the 14th October 1914 16,000 Belgian refugees arrived at Folkestone in a single day, and thousands more would continue to follow. Many were housed in purpose-built villages where they had their own schools, churches, hospitals, police and other conveniences. These areas were considered as Belgian territory and were run by the Belgian government; they even used their own Belgian currency. Others were transported to various parts of the country to be housed or to live with local families.

The arrival of the refugees was greeted with a warm welcome by the British people and acted as a good reminder of why the First World War was a war worth fighting. The government also used the Belgian plight to encourage anti-German sentiment and continued public support for the war effort. Large numbers of people had Belgian refugees staying with them, and if you didn't you almost certainly knew someone who did. However, as most had expected the war to be over by the Christmas of 1914, the novelty quickly wore off when families who were supporting refugees ran out of money to house and feed them. Jobs and housing within the purpose-built villages also became a problem when many Belgians often found themselves with better facilities than the local British communities. By the close of the war, the British government was keen to send the refugees home, and Belgium was equally eager for their return to help in rebuilding the country. The arrival of the Belgian refugees was the first involvement Folkestone had in the First World War and continues to play an important role in its wartime narrative today.

Folkestone and the training camps immediately surrounding the town also became home to thousands of Canadian troops soon after the outbreak of the war in 1914. The British declaration of war automatically brought Canada into the war because of Canada's legal status as a British dominion. However, the Canadian government retained the freedom to determine the extent to which the country would become involved, and on the 5th August 1914 the Governor General declared war on Germany. The militia was not mobilised, but instead an independent Canadian Expeditionary Force was raised and fought as a distinct unit first under a British commander and then ultimately under a Canadian-born commander. The Canadian contribution to the war effort was significant, with particular achievements during the Battles of the Somme, Vimy and Passchendaele, which later became known as 'Canada's Hundred Days'. Around 620,000 troops were mobilised as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and by the end of the war Canada's total casualties stood at 67,000 killed and 250,000 wounded.

The First Contingent of Canadian troops arrived for training at the Salisbury Plain in October 1914. In the spring of 1915 the Second Contingent arrived in the UK and

were sent for training at Shorncliffe Camp and some other smaller camps around Folkestone. Thousands of Canadian troops passed through Folkestone either on their way to the various training camps or onwards the Western Front. They quickly became popular with the Folkestone townsfolk and provided sources of welcome entertainment such as boxing matches, band concerts and choral events. Military spectaculars at Radnor Park were especially popular during the summer months, such as roping displays, massed bands and baseball games. The Canadians became part of the local community, but more importantly underwent essential training for warfare on the Front, such as the art of trench warfare as is evident from the various examples of practice trenches such as those at Shorncliffe and Tolsford Hill within the District. Evidence from diaries and letters between the Canadians and local townspeople shows that affections were felt both ways, and when the troops finally left at the end of the war some had married local girls who then went back to Canada. The Canadian Army also presented a set of eight stained-glass windows to the town which were installed in Shorncliffe station (now Folkestone West). The windows have since been removed and are now kept at the National Railway Museum in York.

By late 1914, the war had spread beyond Europe to Asia, the Pacific and Africa. Technological advances had rendered military tactics that pre-dated the war obsolete, and stronger defensive systems were developed as a result. Barbed wire for example was a significant hinderance to massed infantry advances, whilst more powerful artillery such as the machine gun made crossing open ground extremely dangerous and difficult. New offensive weapons such as tanks and gas were used for the first time during the First World War with devastating effects. Trench warfare would also become an enduring legacy of the First World War and dominated much of the conflict. Commanders on both sides would fail to develop tactics for breaching entrenched positions without suffering heavy losses and casualties. Immediately following the First Battle of the Marne, the Entente and German forces were continuously attempting to outmanoeuvre the other finding themselves facing uninterrupted lines of trenches from Lorraine to Belgium's coast. Britain and France sought offensive action whereas the German forces defended occupied territories. As a result, the German trenches were superior to those of the Allies who had built trenches that were intended to be temporary before breaking through the German defences.

Both sides attempted to break the stalemate using scientific and technological advances. On the 22nd April 1915, at the Second Battle of Ypres, the Germans violated The Hague Convention and used chlorine gas for the first time on the Western Front. Various types of gas were soon being used by both sides, with poison gas becoming one of the most feared and remembered horrors of the war. For the next two years neither side was able to deliver a decisive blow, and massive loss of life continued. Some battles were especially bloody and are among the best-remembered, such as the Battle of the Somme and Passchendaele.

The Battle of the Somme was fought by the armies of the British and French against the German Empire between 1st July and 18th November 1916 on both sides of the upper reaches of the River Somme in France. It was intended to break months of deadlock in the trenches and to hasten an Allied victory. It would in fact become the largest battle fought during the First World War and one of the bloodiest. The French

and British had committed themselves to an offensive on the Somme during the Allied discussions at Chantilly in December of 1915. Initial plans called for the French army to undertake the main part of the Somme offensive with support from the Fourth Army of the British Expeditionary Force on the northern flank. However, when the Imperial German Army began the Battle of Verdun on the Meuse on the 21st February 1916 French commanders diverted many of the divisions originally intended for the Somme and the 'supporting' attack by the British became the primary effort.

On the first day of the Somme (1st July) the German Second Army suffered a serious defeat and was forced out of its first position at Foucaucourt-en-Santerre and Maricourt by both the French and British forces. It was also the worst day in terms of causalities in the history of the British Army, which suffered 57,470 injured soldiers and of these 19,240 deaths. The British troops included servicemen from the Territorial Force (pre-war regular army) and Kitchener's Army as well as men from Ireland, Newfoundland, Canada, West Indies, South Africa, India, Australia and New Zealand. The battle is notable for the first use of tanks as well as for the importance of air power. By the end of the battle, the Allies had penetrated German-occupied territory by 6 miles, taking more ground than in any of their offensives since the Battle of the Marne in 1914.

By the close of battle, 420,000 British, almost 200,000 French and 500,000 German lives had been lost. Whilst it was considered as a victory for the allies, there has been much debate since on the strategy and legacy of the Battle of the Somme. Many now believe that a combination of misplaced optimism, flawed tactics by inexperienced personnel and inadequate weaponry characterises the battle as a massacre and battle of attrition. Despite its devastating consequences, the Allies victory is however still considered by many to have been a significant step towards the Allies ultimate victory in 1918.

As the war continued to rage, technological advances and new weaponry were having significant impacts on the waring nations and their civilians and troops. In many ways the First World War was a new kind of war, with new weaponry such as tanks, poison gases and planes being used often for the first time for military purposes. Planes and zeppelins such as the long-range German Gotha Bombers could pose a significant threat not only to troops but to people miles away from the frontline. On the 13th October 1915, a German Zeppelin made a detour from its intended target in London and headed towards the Kent coast. L14 dropped four bombs over the Otterpool Camp near Lympne which was home to the Canadian Field Artillery, killing 13 men instantly and injuring 23, though two later succumbed to their wounds and also died.

On the 25th May 1917, the horrors of war were closely felt at Folkestone with the bombing of Tontine Street, Shorncliffe and other surrounding areas. The attack was perhaps even more shocking as Folkestone had no air-raid warning system and no anti-aircraft guns, and so the bombing came as a complete surprise. Twenty-Three German Gotha planes had set out for a raid on London, though the raid was cancelled when they found that the capital was covered by a thick layer of cloud. The aircraft then turned south into Kent and began dropping bombs on villages south of Maidstone and towards Ashford. The first deaths occurred in Ashford when 6 bombs

were dropped. The aerodrome at Lympne was targeted though only minimal damage was caused. The bombers then approached Hythe where 20 bombs were dropped causing 2 deaths. The planes then attacked Shorncliffe Camp where 18 servicemen were killed before finally targeting Folkestone.

A total of 40 bombs were dropped on Folkestone in the early evening of the 25th May 1917. Several fell on the station, but the worst was in Tontine Street where a single bomb fell at 6.22pm directly outside Stokes Brother's Greengrocers where the street was crowded with shoppers, children and workers queueing for a fresh delivery of potatoes. The aftermath of the Tontine Street bombing was horrific, with many civilians dead or injured. 10 men, 28 women and 25 children were killed with more than 100 injured and others dying from their injuries later. There would also have been a large number of people with minor injuries that would not have been recorded or sought medical help following the bombing. The Greengrocer William Stokes and his youngest son Arthur were among the dead. Many also suffered long-term emotional, mental and physical problems resulting from the bombing and the devastation that was seen. After the bombing, fear felt by the public from further attacks was so severe that the mayor set up an Air Raid Relief Fund which helped to install anti-aircraft guns, sirens and shelters in the town. Today a memorial garden marks the location once occupied by the Stokes Brother's Greengrocers and a plaque commemorates those lost during the Tontine Street bombing.

Out to sea, naval warfare was also a significant part of hostilities during the First World War. Soon after the outbreak of war in 1914, Britain began a naval blockade of Germany which initially proved effective in disrupting military and civilian supplies, though it did violate accepted international law codified by several international agreements. Vast sections of ocean were mined to prevent any ships from entering, even posing a threat to neutral vessels. In August 1914 the Imperial German Navy had begun using U-boats as an advanced line of observational outposts. Their potential as effective weapons were realised slowly and by early 1915 their patrols extended to the Channel, Dover and around the north Scottish islands. The Dover Patrol, later known as the Dover Patrol Force, was a discrete unit of the Royal Navy based at Dover and Dunkirk for the duration of the First World War. Its primary task was to prevent enemy German shipping, primarily submarines, from entering the English Channel *en route* to the Atlantic Ocean thereby forcing the Imperial German Navy to travel a longer route around Scotland which was covered by the Northern Patrol. It proved to be an effective defence and was responsible for repelling and sinking many enemy vessels.

In February of 1915, the U-boat SM-U8 commanded by Alfred Stoß set out on a patrol to the eastern English Channel. On the 4th March 1915 U8 along with U20 departed from Ostend towards the Channel where she was to sink as many enemy vessels as was possible before returning to port. U20 left U8 to pursue other patrol areas whilst U8 crossed the Ruytingen Bank minefield on the surface, quickly followed by another dense minefield. Fog had reduced visibility and so U8 remained on the surface in order to obtain an accurate position fix before entering the Dover Strait. Accounts of the following events differ between both sides of the war; British accounts are recorded by several eye-witnesses and a summary of the official British account is recorded by Messimer. As the official documents from the U8 were thrown

overboard upon her sinking, the German viewpoint is recorded by Captain Alfred Stoß some three years after the event.

Despite some differences in the accounts of the sinking, both records agree that U8 became trapped at the entrance to the Dover Strait between two minefields to the north-east and two destroyers to the south-west, and then hours of complicated submerged manoeuvring followed whilst being pursued by British vessels. By 15:55 the British destroyers *Mohawk, Nubian, Cossack, Ghurka, Ure* and *Syren* had joined the hunt for U8. Just before 16:00 HMS *Viking* fired an explosive sweep followed by another from *Ghurka* at 16:16. At either 16:45 or 17:45 (depending on various translations of Stoß's account) another explosive sweep which is attributed to HMS *Ghurka* shook U8 causing the U-boat to start taking on water and sustaining damage. The U-boat was brought to the surface where the two destroyers *Ghurka* and *Maori* opened fire, making successful hits on the conning tower. Once on the surface, the crew were ordered through the hatch whilst Stoß and two other officers scuttled U8 which *Ghurka* records show as sinking at 17:12. There was no loss of life during the sinking of U8 and all German crewmen were taken prisoner by the British forces.

The sinking of the SM-U8 was significant as it was the first U-boat of the First World War to be sunk in England's coastal waters. At the time it also proved the effectiveness of the Dover Patrol, though it was the only U-boat to be sunk as a result of an effective use of an explosive sweep. The wreck of the SM-U8 is now designated as a *Protected Wreck Site* and lies 2km west-north-west of the south Varne buoy and 16km south-south-east of Folkestone. Diver's reports and geophysical investigations show that the wreck survives relatively intact with the hull largely complete and upright on the seabed with the conning tower and periscopes still *in situ*. The U8 is significant evidence for the technological advances during the First World War which sets it apart from earlier conflicts.

Submarine warfare continued, and to begin with often came without warning as any vessel could be targeted. Following the sinking of the passenger ship RMS *Lusitania* in 1915, Germany briefly agreed to avoid passenger vessels. However, in early 1917 Germany then adopted a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare after realising that America would also eventually enter the war against them. The threat of the U-boat lessened in 1917 when merchant ships began travelling in convoys with destroyers which made targets difficult to isolate. Depth charges and the hydrophone also ensured some success against submarines and later troopships became too fast for U-boats. By the close of the war U-boats had sunk more than 5,000 Allied ships at a cost of around 200 submarines.

Events of 1917 would prove decisive in ending the war, though the effects would not be fully felt until later in 1918. In response to the British naval blockade, Germany had declared unrestricted submarine warfare with the goal of starving Britain out of the war. German planners had estimated that unrestricted submarine warfare would cost Britain a monthly shipping loss of around 600,000 tons. Whilst it was acknowledged that this would almost certainly bring the United States into the war for the Allies, German planners felt that British shipping losses would be so high that they would sue for peace in 5 to 6 months, well before the entrance of America into the war would have any real impact. However, this ultimately failed as the convoy

system lessened the U-boat threat and Britain was safe from starvation whilst the United States entered the war earlier than was anticipated.

The victory of the Central Powers at the Battle of Caporetto led the Allies to convene the Rapallo Conference at which they formed the Supreme War Council and brought the French and British armies under co-ordinated command. In December of 1917, Russia signed an armistice with the Central Powers which allowed for large numbers of German troops to be moved to the west. With German reinforcements and American troops pouring in, the outcome of the First World War was to be decided on the Western Front. The Central Powers hoped for a quick final offensive as they knew that they could not win a protracted war. Furthermore, both sides were becoming increasingly fearful of social unrest and revolution across Europe and so urgently sought a decisive victory and end to the years of war.

In 1917, Emperor Charles I of Austria secretly sought a separate peace with France without the knowledge of Germany. The proposals were opposed by Italy, and the negotiations eventually failed whilst the attempt was revealed to Germany resulting in diplomatic catastrophe. By the 6th April 1917 the U.S. Congress had declared war on Germany following the sinking of seven U.S. merchant ships by German submarines. Although the U.S. was never a formal member of the Allies, she became a self-styled 'Associated Power' and by the summer of 1918 was sending 10,000 troops per day to the Western Front. The United States Navy also sent battleship groups and destroyers to support the French and British fleets.

In the spring of 1918 plans were drawn up for a German offensive on the Western Front. German leadership hoped to end the war before significant U.S forces arrived by dividing the French and British forces. The operation commenced on the 21st March 1918 with an attack on British forces near Saint-Quentin; German forces gained an unprecedented 37 miles of territory. Attacks and infiltration tactics followed across the trenches, moving the Front to within 75 miles of Paris. This initial offensive was so successful that Germany believed victory was near. However, after more heavy fighting the offensive was halted and whilst lacking tanks and motorised artillery, the German forces were unable to consolidate their gains.

On the 5th November 1917 a Supreme War Council of Allied Forces was created establishing a co-ordinating role over the British, French and U.S. units which operated largely independently. Various battles and operations were fought over the first half of 1918 with limited territorial gains by Germany. By the 20th July Germany had retreated across the Marne to their starting lines having achieved little, and they never again gained the initiative. Meanwhile, social unrest at home in Germany was growing with frequent anti-war marches and morale in the army falling.

The Allied counteroffensive, known as the Hundred Days Offensive, began on the 8th August 1918 with the Battle of Amiens and would become the first successful Allied offensive of the war. Allied leaders had now realised that to continue an attack after resistance had hardened was a waste of life, and so they began undertaking attacks in quick order to take advantage of successive advances on the flanks. By September the Allies had advanced to the Hindenburg Line in the north and centre following various German withdrawals. Contested villages, towns and trenches along the Hindenburg Line continued to fall to the Allies and the Germans had now

retreated to positions along or behind the line. By now Germany had realised that they could no longer win the war, and by mid-August Ludendorff recommended immediate peace negotiations.

The German military continued to falter, and with the collapse of the Balkans in October of 1918 Germany lost its main supply of oil and food. There was widespread loss of confidence in the Kaiser, and Germany subsequently moved towards surrender. Negotiations with the American President began immediately as it was thought that more favourable terms could be concluded than would be offered by the British or French. President Wilson demanded a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary control over the German military. No resistance was given, and on the 9th November 1918 Social Democrat Philip Scheidemann declared Germany as a Republic. The Kaiser, Kings and other hereditary rulers were all removed, and Wilhelm fled into exile in the Netherlands. With the death of Imperial Germany, the Weimar Republic was born.

The collapse of the Central Powers came quickly; Bulgaria was the first to sign an armistice on 29th September 1918 followed by the Ottoman Empire on the 30th October. On the 11th November 1918 an armistice with Germany was signed, effectively ending the First World War although a state of conflict continued in areas for another seven months until the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on the 28th June 1919. Peace talks and treaties continued in the years immediately following 1918, with many troops not returning home until the Versailles Treaty was signed. Legally, formal peace treaties were not complete until the Treaty of Lausanne was signed and under its terms, the Allied forces left Constantinople on the 23rd August 1923.

The First World War has had a lasting impact on the district and left behind an important collection of heritage assets relating to this major historical event. Many of these assets continued to be used by the military beyond 1918 and went on to play important roles in the Second Word War only a few decades later. Today, a number of memorials and commemoration events continue to mark the contribution the district made to the war effort, and especially to those who lost their lives in doing so. Monuments such as the Road of Remembrance and Folkestone Memorial Arch continue to serve as a reminder of the war which became one of the deadliest in history, as well as the role that the District played being so close to the European battlefields.

3. Description of the Heritage Assets

Airfields and Air Defence

During the First World War the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) was the air arm of the British Army until it merged with the Royal Naval Air Service on the 1st April 1918 to form the Royal Air Force. In the earlier parts of the war, the RFC supported the British Army through artillery co-operation and photographic reconnaissance, which gradually led to aerial battles with German pilots and the strafing of enemy emplacements and infantry as well as strategic bombing. All operating locations were officially called ‘Royal Flying Corps Station *name*’ though there is some debate as to whether they were referred to as ‘RFC *name*’ in a similar way to modern RAF stations today. Airfields within the district included those at Lympne, Hawkinge and Dymchurch as well as a balloon site at Hythe.

Hawkinge was the site of a military airfield during both World Wars, though it has now been partially built over by housing whilst the remainder is incorporated into the Kent Battle of Britain Museum. The airfield began as a private venture in 1912 by a Dutchman W. B. Megone, but was soon adopted for the RFC. The RFC Hawkinge airfield was opened in 1915 and initially consisted of tents and canvas hangars that gave way to more permanent sheds and huts that were built in 1916. Records show that there were three Bessonneau aircraft hangars, and between 1918 and 1919 extra Belfast Truss aircraft hangars and other facilities were also built. Following the First World War it was abandoned for a short time before being reactivated when No. 25 Squadron was reformed in 1920, the only fighter squadron in the country at the time. RAF Hawkinge, as it was later known, was a key front-line fighter station during the Battle of Britain and Operation Diver in the Second World War.

In 1915 work had begun around the Lympne area on establishing a suitable site for a landing ground and aircraft acceptance park. In March of 1916 Lympne was established as an Emergency Landing Ground for the RFC Home Defence aircraft who defended London against Zeppelins and Gotha Bombers. Initially canvas hangars and wooden huts were erected for the servicemen, but by October 1916 Bessonneau hangars along with other technical buildings had been erected and Lympne Castle was also being used as an Officers Mess. The No. 1 Advanced School of Air Gunnery operated from Lympne during January and February 1917, and in January 1917 it was also designated as No. 8 Aircraft Acceptance Park for the delivery of aircraft to, and reception from, France. Delivery of the aircraft and final assembly at Lympne was enabled by a spur from the Westenhanger Railway Station. A variety of aircraft passed through Lympne airfield including Handley Page O/100 and Handley O/400 bombers. On 25th May 1917 Lympne was bombed by Gotha Bombers of *Kagohl 3*.

By 1918 Lympne was a First-Class Landing Ground and was still being used by the RFC Home Defence Squadron. That same year the Day and Night Bombing Observation School was also formed here. Immediately following the end of the First World War, the airfield continued to be used for civilian aviation, partly due to its proximity to the Hawkinge airfield, and would also be used during the Second World War.

There was an aerial gunnery at Dymchurch, also sometimes known as Hythe or Palmarsh aerial gunnery, during the First World War. It was established during 1917 as a base for the RFC Machine Gun School which had been based here since 1915. The aerial gunnery wasn't established at Dymchurch until 1917 due to the proximity to the Lympne airfield nearby. In November of 1918 the school moved to the New Romney airfield at Jessons Farm though Dymchurch continued to be used as an emergency field for aircraft training on the ranges. It was eventually closed in 1919.

An airfield for a time also seems to have been established at St Mary's Bay and was alternatively known as Littlestone Airfield or Jesson Airfield where there was also a camp along Jesson Lane (todays Jefferstone Lane). The development of the airfield did not begin until the outbreak of the war in 1914 when the War Department initially used a landing strip on Romney Warren and part of the Littlestone Golf Course. This soon moved to a proper aerodrome in Jesson Lane which occupied 75 acres of land

bounded by Jesson Lane and the Jefferstone and Cobsden Sewers. The airfield housed the RFC No. 1 School of Gunnery amalgamated with the No. 1 (Observers) School of Aerial Gunnery. Following the armistice at the end of the war, the School of Aerial Gunnery was moved to Manston and the flying field was kept open for emergency landing facilities. Although there was the airfield to the south at Lympne, the area was particularly susceptible to fog and so on occasion Lympne planes were diverted to Littlestone Airfield now known as the Littlestone Emergency Landing Ground.

Anti-Aircraft Defences

Anti-aircraft defences were located throughout the District to respond to the new threat of an aerial attack that came with the First World War. Within the district Cheriton, Hawkinge, Shorncliffe and Westenhanger had anti-aircraft defences.

Aircraft Detection

Acoustic Early Warning Devices

The use of aircraft as offensive weapons marked a significant development in the history of warfare, and provoked new systems of strategic air defence. Early detection of enemy aircraft was initially based on visual spotting, but at the start of the First World War in 1914 experiments began on acoustic detection devices. The principle of acoustic detection relied on an acoustic receiving dish reflecting the sound of distant aircraft engines onto a focal point where it could be detected by a listener, and later by microphones. There are three main types of acoustic device; mirrors, walls and discs. Mirrors were upright concave bowls between 3m and 4m in diameter. They were usually contained in concrete slab walls; the walls were curved vertical structures up to 61m in length. The disc system used horizontally-set concave bowls that were designed for use in pairs and would detect aircraft passing overhead to measure their speed. At their most sophisticated, the devices could identify the sound of enemy surface vessels or aircraft from up to 25 miles away.

Research into acoustic early warning devices was carried out in several countries during the early twentieth century. Early British experiments took place at the Royal Flying Corps research establishment at Farnborough where parabolic acoustic sound reflectors of varying shapes and curvatures were tested. This led to the first true use of a sound mirror at Binbury Manor in the summer of 1915; a circular disc was cut into a low chalk cliff. The first operational acoustic reflectors were a pair of adjustable mirrors that were erected along the Kent coast in 1917, followed by a series of concrete static mirrors established on the north-east coast later during World War One.

Further experiments were carried out after the war using large concrete mirrors. This led to the building of a complex chain of mirrors on the Kent coast around Hythe during the late 1920s. Two experimental acoustic devices had also been erected on The Roughs west of Hythe in 1923; a 20-foot mirror which was built first followed by a 30-foot mirror. The three sound mirrors at Greatstone-on-sea were built following the establishment of the Acoustic Research Station at The Roughs by the Air Ministry in 1922. The first of the Greatstone sound mirrors was built in 1928, the other two following by 1930. These are an important collection as they exhibit all three designs of the time; 20-foot, 30-foot and 200-foot (long) sound mirrors.

Acoustic devices were always susceptible to interference from extraneous noise and bad weather conditions. As aircraft performance increased, the time between detection and arrival of the craft was rapidly shortened and ultimately reduced the value of the devices. By 1936 the technology of radar had replaced them altogether, although some were kept as backup systems should there be a problem with the radar.

Training Grounds and Camps

There were many training grounds and camps located throughout the district during the First World War which made important contributions to the war effort as well as to the local communities. Amongst these, the training grounds occupied by the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) at Shorncliffe and the surrounding areas were perhaps the most prominent within the District and have left a lasting impact on the local communities and historic character. A list of sites occupied or owned by the War Department in 1918 which was put together at the end of the war by the Reconstruction Board follows below.

Key Components

Name	*Description*
Folkestone	Park Field Turkettle Road (Drill and Bayonet Course)
Hawkinge	Part of Coombe and Hope Farm (Training and Drill) Terlingham Farm (Training and Drill)
Hythe	The Roughs
Lydd	Aden's Lands (Training, School of Musketry) Part of West Ripe (Camping Ground)
Lympne	Part of Danehurst Farm
Postling	Downsland (Training and Drilling) Four Wents Field (Training and Drilling) Page Farm (Trenching and Bombing) Whitelands (Training and Drilling)
St Mary's Bay	Jesson Lane (Camping Ground)
Saltwood	Jenkin's Rough Tolsford Hill, Blue House Farm (Training and Drilling)
Shorncliffe	Training Grounds

At the outbreak of the First World War, Canada as a dominion of the British Empire was automatically brought into the war against Germany, though the Canadian government retained the freedom to determine the extent to which the country would become involved. On the 5th August 1914 the Governor General of Canada declared war on Germany and formed the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) for service overseas. Prior to 1914, Canada was militarily ill-prepared with no regular army and only a permanent militia force of around 3000 men who trained for just 16 days a year. Over the course of the war, the newly formed CEF grew to almost a million serving soldiers and made a valuable contribution to the war effort. Canada's willingness to provide such a degree of manpower would become central to its evolution in developing her own foreign policy and ultimately achieving independence from the British Empire.

In February 1915 forty-thousand Canadian soldiers from a successful Second Contingent arrived at Plymouth and boarded trains to Shorncliffe Camp in Kent near Folkestone. The proximity of the District to continental Europe meant that troops could be training one day and then be in trenches on the Western Front by the next. Resident soldiers and townsfolk in areas such as Folkestone could hear the guns and bombing from the Front across the Channel, providing a constant reminder of the horrors of war that were not so far away. Other nationalities that were billeted at the camps included British troops, Royal Air Force cadets and Russian Relief Force as well as the CEF. Training began in camps at Shorncliffe, Hythe, Dibgate, East and West Sandling, Westenhanger and Otterpool.

Shorncliffe Army Camp

Shorncliffe Army Camp is a large military camp near Cheriton, Folkestone that was initially established in 1794 when over 229 acres of land in the area were purchased by the British Army. Shorncliffe Redoubt was constructed in around 1794 probably soon after the land was purchased as an anti-invasion defence against a possible landing on the beaches to the west of Folkestone. The redoubt was part of a series of coastal defences that were an urgent response to the threat of invasion posed by Revolutionary France. Twiss's plans of 1794 show a square rampart surrounded by a ditch with various unidentified buildings inside. By May of 1803 war with France, now under the rule of Napoleon, had resumed following the brief Treaty of Amiens and invasion was once again a real threat. On the 9th July, Sir John Moore was appointed to command a brigade of infantry stationed at Shorncliffe. This marked the start of the celebrated camp for light infantry which resulted in a significant change in both the tactics and quality of the British Army. Today parts of the Redoubt survive though it is largely overgrown. It is designated as a Scheduled Monument as a rare example of this type of structure and is also the only building at Shorncliffe Camp that is contemporary with the founding of the light infantry by Sir John Moore in 1803.

During the Napoleonic Wars, the camp consisted of temporary buildings and tents used during the summer training season set out on the land to the north and east of the redoubt. Following the end of the Napoleonic Wars, the camp fell out of use though may still have played a small role in some training exercises. A permanent training camp was not laid out until the late 1850s. By the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, the redoubt was being used by the Royal Engineers and was a heavily defended post with trench systems that are evident to the south and west. Troops were stationed at Shorncliffe before heading onto the Western Front, and in April 1915 the Canadian Training Division was formed there.

Shorncliffe was chosen for the Second CEF as it was a purpose-built garrison that had been recently vacated by Kitchener's British Army recruits. Initially the camp was unable to accommodate the large numbers of troops, and so they were stationed in 'tent cities' with the officers finding private housing across Folkestone and Hythe. Meanwhile, wooden huts with corrugated iron roofs were hastily erected and these new 'tin towns' housed troops amongst the hills of Shorncliffe. All newcomers to the camp were initially kept in isolation barracks in Dibgate Plain for a period of twenty-eight days to avoid the epidemic of serious diseases that had been experienced at similar camps in Salisbury. New Canadian troops had undergone a short period of basic training before the long sea crossing to England, and so attempts were made

to lessen the chance of exposure to disease that may have been borne across the Atlantic. Quarantine was considered as the most favourable part of the camp because there were only 4 as opposed to 8 men per tent, there were no parades and the food was better. Once a soldier had been cleared from quarantine, they were granted a short period of leave to explore the surrounding towns and villages, or London was only a short train journey away.

Canadian troops arrived at Shorncliffe with minimal soldiering experience after only a few weeks of cursory training before crossing the Atlantic. Men with minimal militia experience were sent to British military schools for training in using a rifle, bayonet and grenade as well as in methods of trench warfare. Special instruction in machine gunnery, signalling and bombing was also offered to every man. Once they emerged as non-ranking leaders, they were then thrust into the position of instructing new recruits in skills they had only learned weeks earlier. There was a constant pressure to supply fresh troops for the Front to replace tired or depleted units, and because of this demand the training programmes were at best adequate and continued to be condensed as the war drew on.

A typical day for a soldier at Shorncliffe Army Camp was highly structured from around 5:30am until lights out at 10pm. Days incorporated physical drills, marches, parades and training punctuated with meal times. Visits by dignitaries such as Prime Minister Borden were a particular highlight and provided the troops with an opportunity to demonstrate their military skills and training. In September of 1915 King George V and Lord Kitchener visited the camp to inspect the troops and expressed a message of gratitude to the CEF; “the past weeks at Shorncliffe have been for you a period of severe and rigorous training…. History will never forget the loyalty and readiness with which you rallied to the aid of your Mother Country in the hour of danger”.

Nurturing and maintaining a high level of morale in preparation for the day that the men would be called to the Front was an important role of the camp. As no specific timetable was available for their departure, soldiers immersed themselves in many activities that the camp provided. A central feature at Shorncliffe was the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) which took an active interest in the welfare of soldiers during both war and peace time offering a range of activities and facilities. British and Canadian YMCA’s were entirely separate and took responsibility for their own troops. Canteen huts were used as clubhouses and supplied necessities such as shoe polish, books and magazines at greatly reduced prices. As the war intensified, the Canadian ‘Y’ as they became affectionately known accompanied their soldiers across to the front lines and provided a refuge where men could receive free sustenance, comfort and support. The ‘Y’ also ensured a ready supply of notepaper and pencils for writing letters home as well as assisting soldiers to write their battlefield wills.

The Moore Barracks at Shorncliffe Camp became the headquarters for the Canadian Field Comforts Commission, organised by the Militia Department shortly after the First Contingent had arrived in England. The agency was administered by the women of Canada and supplied extra comforts and small luxuries to the soldiers in the camps and especially to those on the Front such as gloves, socks and cigarettes. Other outlets for the soldiers included Regimental Trench Newspapers that were

produced by the soldiers themselves and became a popular form of communication and source of entertainment. The ‘Khaki University’, which was set up in 1917, also provided an important opportunity for soldiers in education and planning their future beyond the end of the war.

Despite all the activities that were provided at Shorncliffe, inevitably the concentration of soldiers into one region led to crime and disorder in the area. The Military Police Units held full responsibility for the soldiers at the camp, whilst local Folkestone and Hythe police dealt with incidences in the towns. Folkestone as a seaside holiday destination was soon transformed into an expanding garrison town with a mixture of North American and regional British accents. The local people accepted the troops into their lives and homes, especially in the cases where members of the local families were already off fighting on the Front. Records suggest that the local people enjoyed the spectacle of the soldiers marching through the local area.

The Canadians embraced Kentish life and quickly became an integral part of the local communities. Local newspapers from the war years show numerous reports of a symbiotic relationship between the military and civilians. Soldiers became members of local churches, and the camp provided frequent military displays and sporting events in Radnor Park. As a resort town, Folkestone and Hythe were well-equipped to cater to visitors which in this case were military personnel. A number of local businesses profited from the presence of the Canadian troops, such as restaurants, shops and leisure facilities. Local residents also benefited from letting out their properties or rooms to military personnel. Paradoxically, the time spent at Shorncliffe camp by the Canadian soldiers could be compared to a ‘holiday camp’ when set against the conditions that were faced on the Western Front. During training, the incessant sound of gunfire could be clearly heard from across the Channel and acted as a constant reminder of what the soldiers would soon face. When soldiers arrived at the camps on short rotary respites from fighting, they would optimise on the opportunity to enjoy themselves away from the horrors faced on the Front Line.

By the end of the war in 1918, the Canadian Corps had evolved into a tough and resourceful military force best known for their successful campaign for Vimy Ridge in April 1917, which also helped to secure Canada’s reputation as an indomitable fighting force. Around 20,000 Canadians chose to remain in the UK following demobilisation whilst many returned to Canada and attempted to return to their civilian lives and families. On the 30th January 1923, the Folkestone Council Highways Committee recommended that Slope Road should be renamed the ‘Road of Remembrance’ as a lasting memorial to the soldiers who passed along the road on their way to and from Folkestone harbour and the Western Front.

Today some buildings from the camp survive though the redevelopment of large parts of the site is underway and others have already been lost or demolished. There is however a high potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains associated with the Shorncliffe Camp from its inception in 1794 through to the 1870s onwards when more permanent buildings were established. There are surviving earthwork features from the First World War present within the area known as the

Backdoor Training Area as well as other valuable built features across the whole site. These include (from south to north):

- Pillboxes
- Martello Tower No. 9 (Scheduled Monument)
- Shorncliffe Redoubt (Scheduled Monument)
- Former Water Tank – Burgoyne Barracks
- Former Racquet Court - Burgoyne Barracks, principal building only (Grade II Listed Building)
- No. 1 Royal Engineer Barrack Blocks of 1880-81 – Burgoyne Barracks (Grade II Listed Building)
- Sir John Moore Memorial Library of c. 1915-16 west of Somerset House (Grade II Listed Building)
- Sir John Moore Memorial Statue, 1916 south of library (Grade II Listed Building)
- Salmanca Stone
- Gates to Risborough Ordnance Depot (Grade II Listed Building)

East & West Sandling Camps

The original Sandling Camp was built by McAlpine and Sons of Glasgow in October of 1914 and consisted of wooden huts that were built to house eight battalions of the CEF as an extension to the nearby Shorncliffe Camp. The 21st Battalion CEF went straight to the West Sandling Camp upon arrival in England and made references to marches and training on Tolsford Hill in various letters and war diaries. Soldiers that were stationed at the West and East Sandling Camps during the First World War undertook training in trench construction and warfare known as ‘entrenchment’ at Tolsford Hill where there is still evidence of the many practice trenches that were dug and subsequently used there. Soldiers would learn how to dig trenches and to ‘go over the top’ into what was known as ‘no man’s land’ on the Western Front. There is also evidence for similar practice trenches at Shorncliffe and above Folkestone and Hythe. Route marching and entrenching formed an important part of the syllabus at the West and East Sandling Camps.

Little evidence of the camps survives today, with no physical buildings remaining. Documentary and photographic evidence sheds light on the experiences of the soldiers whilst stationed at these camps and provides important evidence for the camps whereabouts and layout. Recent fieldwalking and aerial photography has provided evidence for the practice trenches at Tolsford Hill which appear to be preserved in good condition though they are not designated.

Practice Trenches

Some of the most enduring images of the First World War are the trenches on the Western Front. Trench warfare occurred when advances in firepower were not matched by similar advances in mobility resulting in a gruelling form of warfare which often sustained huge numbers of casualties. Both sides would construct elaborate systems of trenches and dugouts along opposing fronts with the protection of barbed wire, mines and other obstacles. The area between the opposing trench lines became known as 'no man's land' as it was fully exposed to artillery fire from both sides and many lost their lives 'going over the top' of their trenches.

Less well-known are the extensive practice trenches that were dug by troops as part of their training before being sent to the Western Front. At the beginning of the war with the large influx of recruits for the army, the digging of practice trenches was an important way of imparting valuable military skills whilst also building up fitness and fostering team spirit. Practice trenches could also provide realistic training for what troops would encounter on the Front as well as being used in the practice of assault tactics. Many examples can be found across England and largely survive as archaeological earthworks. Within the district, examples of practice trenches can be found at Shorncliffe and Tolsford Hill near Folkestone.

For soldiers who were stationed at the East and West Sandling Camps in Saltwood, 'entrenchment' at Tolsford Hill is mentioned often on a daily basis in the syllabus of training and activities. The digging of these practice trenches would train the soldiers in the construction of trenches as well as preparing them for 'going over the top'. Entrenching as well as marching formed an important part of the syllabus which was taught by those who had actual fighting experience on the Front. Today the practice trenches at Tolsford Hill can be seen in detail through aerial photography and survive as archaeological earthworks. They are not protected by any designation.

St Mary's Bay – Jesson Lane Camp

The Tree Estate in St Mary's Bay which was built during the 1970s had been home to a number of camps since the First World War. With the outbreak of war in 1914, the War Department built a camp in what was then Jesson Lane (todays Jefferstone Lane) to house the Royal Flying Corps School of Gunnery amalgamated with No. 1 (Observers) School of Aerial Gunnery. The camp was intended to accommodate 1000 men, 300 NCOs, 400 Officers and 400 women. When the Royal Flying Corps Gunnery School was put up for sale in 1920, the Boy's Brigade purchased all the accommodation on the New Romney side of Jesson Lane, excluding a couple of homes. However, the camp was soon sold again and would later become the St Mary's Bay Holiday Camp before being demolished during the 1970s.

Hythe School of Musketry

The School of Musketry was founded and set up at Hythe in 1853 and is first mentioned in the Army List of 1854. It became one of the most important training centres in the country for the British Army and would play a major role during the First World War.

By 1914 the School had established itself as a centre of excellence in the training of officers to effectively fire and utilise general issue firearms; during the First World War this was the Pattern 1914 Enfield rifle. NCOs and officers were trained at the

Hythe School of Musketry in marksmanship, drill and weapon handling which they could then cascade to other soldiers for effective use on the battlefield. Individuals who underwent training at Hythe were well-respected within the regiments as the School played such an important role in teaching methods to offset the early superior machinegun power of the German army. It was well-known that Germany had far more machineguns than the British, and so the Hythe School of Musketry developed a method for manipulating the rifle bolt so that soldiers were able to fire their arms 15-20 times within 60 seconds. This ability to fire accurately within such a short space of time became known as the 'mad minute', and some argue was significant to repelling the German forces during the war.

The School continued to play an important role in training NCOs and officers in how to fight on the Front throughout the war. The troops who were stationed at the School were also welcomed into the local community of Hythe and played an important role in that way at events such as functions and dances. By 1919 its name had changed to the Small Arms School with a badge that showed crossed rifles surmounted by a crown. In 1929 the original badge was changed to include crossed rifles and a Vickers machinegun surmounted by a crown and surrounded by a laurel wreath. The title Small Arms School Corps also came into being at this time and would continue until the Schools closure in 1968. The School moved to Warminster, Wiltshire where its headquarters remain today.

Whilst none of the buildings associated with the School survive today, the Hythe School of Musketry played a vital role during the First World War in preparing soldiers and officers for fighting on the Front. Interpretation panels along the Royal Military Canal and a plaque detail the presence of the School in Hythe and mark where the entrance would have stood though it has since been developed for housing and a Sainsburys store. The School also survives in the living memory of some residents of the town and so continues to be highly valued in this way.

Today the Hythe Ranges are a reminder of the military importance that Hythe has played during its history. The ranges are located on the edge of the town off the A259 Hythe-Dymchurch-Hastings Road on an area of low-lying land adjoining the foreshore. The Hythe ranges are one of the oldest ranges in the country and have been used for live firing for nearly 200 years. They are still used for live firing with a Danger Area that extends out to sea. Red flags are flown during live firing session, and access to the foreshore and seawall is prohibited.

Lydd Ranges

The Lydd Ranges are located on part of the Dungeness foreland and have been used for military training for over 150 years. The Ranges are still used today for live firing with a Danger Area that extends out to sea. Red flags are flown during periods of live firing during which time access to the foreshore and Galloway's Road is prohibited.

Voluntary Aid Detachments and Auxiliary/Military Hospitals

At the outbreak of the First World War, the British Red Cross and the Order of St John of Jerusalem combined to form the Joint War Committee for the purpose of pooling resources for the large numbers of war casualties that the authorities were ill prepared to deal with. Over the course of the war, more than 2.5 million casualties

would be transferred back to the UK, mostly through Southampton and Dover as well as other ports such as Folkestone. The numbers were so huge that the authorities depended heavily on civilian involvement in the care of the wounded and sick in order to compensate for the shortcomings of the military medical service. Under the emblem of the Red Cross, the Joint War Committee was able to secure buildings, equipment and staff to set up temporary hospitals as wounded men began to arrive from abroad. An important aspect of the Committees efforts during the war became the organisation of auxiliary hospitals in addition to other military hospitals and the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) system.

Over 5000 buildings in England were offered to the War Office. These varied greatly in size and suitability; from town halls, schools, portions of general hospitals to private houses, recreation halls and even cottages. The most suitable were established as auxiliary hospitals which were attached to central military hospitals which looked after patients who remained under military control. Military hospitals were also established in hutted army camps on land that was either part of an existing army base or acquired nearby. The VAD system was founded prior to the war in 1909 under the auspices of the Red Cross and the Order of St John. By the summer of 1914 there were over 2,500 VAD units in Britain, and of the 74,000 members at least two-thirds were women. At the outbreak of the war, VAD members immediately offered their services though they were initially not allowed to serve overseas or on the frontline. This soon changed and female volunteers over the age of 23 with more than 3 months hospital experience were accepted for overseas service. At home most of the auxiliary hospitals were staffed by VAD nurses.

During the first 6 months of the war, the majority of wounded arriving in Kent were Belgian soldiers and refugees who had been evacuated from Ostend following the fall of Antwerp. In the month of October 1914 around 1800 patients were admitted into Kent VAD hospitals. There were around 300 auxiliary hospitals in Kent alone which ranged from large existing military hospitals to small local rooms or units. Some military hospitals were run by Canadian, American, Australian and New Zealand medical authorities as their home countries were too far away to receive casualties. For example, within the district the Canadians administered the Shorncliffe Military Hospital as well as establishments in Folkestone.

There were a number of military hospitals, private auxiliary hospitals and convalescent homes in the county in addition to those that were officially under the VAD umbrella. Some were only used for a limited period of time, whilst many of the VAD establishments continued to care for patients beyond the end of the war. Patients often preferred the auxiliary hospitals to military hospitals because they weren’t as strict, were less crowded and were often in more comfortable surroundings. The military authorities depended heavily on the VAD hospitals, especially those in Kent, and the vast voluntary forces that picked up much of the strain that was already placed on the military medical services.

There was a range of VAD, auxiliary and military hospitals across the district during the First Word War, the majority being in Folkestone. The Royal Victoria Hospital, a small general hospital that still serves the area, provided military beds between 1914 and 1918. Many the hotels across the town were also used as hospitals and convalescent homes. St Andrews Hotel and Chapel which was known as a

convalescent and nursing home prior to the war, was used as a hospital with 28 beds receiving naval convalescents. The New Metropole was used during October and November of 1914 for wounded Belgian soldiers, and the Westcliff Hotel was a VAD hospital that was used as a Canadian eye and ear hospital with 325 beds towards the end of the war. The Manor House in Folkestone was also used as a VAD hospital with 108 beds again towards the end of the war.

Other smaller buildings across Folkestone such as schools and houses were utilised for the war effort. The old building of the Harvey Grammar School was used as a VAD hospital during October of 1914, and the Cheriton Girls School was also possibly used as a VAD hospital at the same time. Army nursing homes were set up at Manor Court and York House with 42 beds and were run privately by a local doctor. In other areas of the District, hospitals were also established in Hythe, Elham, Lympne and at Shorncliffe. Lympne Castle was used as a convalescent home during the war, and Sandling Park House at Hythe was used for convalescing Canadian Officers. Bevan Military Hospital at Sandgate just outside Folkestone was administered by the VAD and had 250 beds between 1914 and 1919. There was a VAD hospital at Hythe which has since been demolished, and the Old Bookshop in Elham also operated as a VAD hospital receiving Belgian soldiers.

At the Shorncliffe Barracks, the Royal Military Hospital was a central military hospital operated by the Canadian Army Medical Corps with 434 beds. Its General Hospital No. 9 ran between September 1917 to December 1918, and its No. 11 between September 1917 and September 1919. The buildings have since been demolished to make way for the development of housing. The Moore Barracks Military Hospital and Beachborough Park were also affiliated with the Shorncliffe military camp and were run by the Canadians. The Moore Barracks Hospital with 967 beds was run between May 1915 and September 1917 when it then became the No. 11 Canadian General Hospital. The Queen's Canadian Military Hospital at Beachborough Park had 130 beds and was also under the Canadian War Contingent Association of Shorncliffe.

Accommodation for Troops

Folkestone	6, Albion Villas (The Leas) Bathurst Road, Rest Camp No. 2 Caesar's Camp (Camping Ground) Cheriton (Camping Ground) Clifton Crescent, Rest Camp No. 3 12, Clifton Gardens County Skating Rink (Belgians) 15, Earls Avenue 24-6, Earls Avenue 63, Earls Avenue 10, Langhorne Gardens Marine Crescent, Rest Camp No. 1 5, Marine Terrace (Belgians) Park Field (Camping) Royal Pavilion Hotel Grill Room (Belgians)
Hawkinge	Barn House, Field Terlingham Farm

Hythe	Church House (Central Mess) Cranley Court Highfield, Seabrook Road Imperial Hotel (Officers) Moyle Tower Riversdale, Seabrook Road (Officers) Spring Wade, Seabrook Road (Officers) West Parade
Littlestone	Grand Hotel (Officers)
Lympne	Bellevue Cliff Cottage Lympne Castle (Officers) Otterpool Farm Westenhanger Farm
Lydd	The Grange (Officers) Camp (Commandant's Quarters and Camping Ground)
Sandgate	Shorncliffe Lodge (Officers)
Shorncliffe	Shorncliffe Barracks and Camp

Accommodation for Guards

Folkestone	The Bugle Garage (Garrison Guard room)
Hythe	Tramway Stables (Guard room)

4. Statement of Significance

The First World War defences in the District have generally left less of a physical mark than those of the preceding centuries, or by the Second World War which was to follow a little over twenty years later. The Great War was a conflict that was largely thought of as being fought on Continental Europe. Means of modern warfare have however all left their traces on the district such as the airfields, sound mirrors and practice trenches. The port of Folkestone was an important point of embarkation and entry through which millions of military personnel and refugees passed between 1914 and 1919. The District also contained camps and schools that were vital to the war effort, as well as a number of medical facilities to care for the wounded. Overall, the heritage assets within the District relating to the First World War are considered to be of **moderate to considerable** significance.

Evidential

The First World War remains in the District demonstrate some of the major changes in warfare in the twentieth century. Advances in technology brought new levels of threat to the theatre of war. In particular, the use of aerial bombardment completely altered the way in which war impacted upon civilians. Remains such as the sound mirrors at Greatstone and Hythe provide evidence for the development of technologies in response to the new aerial threat, though in this case they turned out to be a 'dead end'. There is also the potential for buried archaeological remains at Shorncliffe relating to the post-medieval use of the site, especially through the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Further documentary research could be undertaken at the archives in the United Kingdom and in Canada to provide

further evidence regarding the construction and use of the military camps contained in war diaries and other personal documentation. This will provide a unique insight into the personal experiences of soldiers stationed at Shorncliffe. There may also be previously undocumented plans of the camps contained within the national and local regimental archives.

Historical
The First World War defence remains have strong historical associations, often illustrating and reflecting events at a national and international level. The Folkestone Harbour played a significant role in the embarkation and entry of millions of military personnel and refugees throughout the course of the war. The camps and military schools provide a clear illustration of the scale of the conflict and the huge numbers of individuals, materials and equipment that were required to continue fighting the war. The remains of the airfields and aircraft detection devices are a historical reminder of the origins of modern aerial warfare. Across the District the many buildings that were requisitioned by the military as well as the several medical facilities further highlights the casualties suffered during what would become one of the deadliest conflicts in history.

Aesthetic
The First World War military remains have left relatively few physical traces on the District's landscape when compared with preceding or later conflicts. Those remains that do survive are of limited aesthetic value, however they do provide a poignant reminder of the role played during the war as well as the losses that were felt.

Communal
The First World War is still in people's consciousness and though there are relatively few physical remains of the war surviving in the District, those that do are a strong reminder of the enormous scale of the conflict and the lasting impacts that it had on a local, national and international scale. Sites such as Shorncliffe have important social and commemorative value to the local communities as evidence of the vital role played during the war. These sites also provide links to those that were involved from further afield, such as the Canadian communities, who had a significant impact on the local community at the time and continue to be felt today. The ways in which the war shaped the district are still significant to the local identity and historical character, and so assets relating to this history continue to carry high communal value.

5. Vulnerabilities
The defensive heritage assets of the Great War period which survive in the district are often of a smaller scale and are less substantial that those of either the preceding or subsequent themes. Whilst this does not mean that the assets are less significant, they are potentially more vulnerable from being less visible and less appreciated.

Sites along the coast, such as the Sound Mirrors and the Road of Remembrance are particularly vulnerable to natural threats. Coastal erosion, weathering and root damage all have the potential to negatively impact upon the fabric of these structures. The isolated position of some of these sites also means that they are vulnerable to deliberate damage such as vandalism, graffiti and other anti-social

behaviour. Sites such as the Greatstone Sound Mirrors have controlled access which will help to reduce the risk of deliberate damage to the monuments. However, this is not possible for sites such as the Road of Remembrance and so efforts must be made to maintain and preserve the site as an important heritage asset and place of remembrance.

Other structures such as practice trenches are also vulnerable to natural or deliberate damage. For example, some of the trenches at Shorncliffe have been obscured by the addition of earthen biking ramps. As structures that were intended to be temporary, they are further vulnerable to natural deterioration such as at Tolsford Hill where the trenches are now best viewed from the air due to becoming overgrown and partially filled. As undesignated assets, they are not afforded the same protection and maintenance as other assets within the District and so the inclusion on a Local List may help to raise their profile as well as to put forward a case for future designation or protection.

Many sites are wholly or partially cleared and largely survive as buried archaeological remains only. Sites such as the Hythe School of Musketry have been completely lost which has had a negative impact on the local historic character. Other sites such as the Shorncliffe Army Camp which partially survive are now being partly cleared and are increasingly vulnerable to being lost to modern development. It will be important to retain parts of the site such as the buildings and structures that are designated in order to continue telling the story of its role during wartime within the District.

6. Opportunities

The passing of time has meant that the District's First World War heritage assets are now our only direct link to this emotive period in our recent past. With a rich range of heritage assets surviving in the district as well as active local groups working to promote and enhance this history, there are important opportunities to develop resources for the local communities and visitors alike.

There is the potential to develop heritage tours which take in collections of sites, linking their stories together and creating a more powerful narrative of the District's role in the First World War. Sites such as Shorncliffe Army Camp, the Road of Remembrance and Folkestone Harbour which all played vital roles during the war could be linked together as part of a heritage tour themed around First World War heritage. Groups such as Step Short and the Shorncliffe Trust are working to achieve this, and are also looking to extend tours to areas overseas where the story of the soldiers would have continued after crossing the Channel from the Folkestone Harbour onto the Western Front.

There is also an important opportunity for heritage assets from this theme to be incorporated into the new development of the Folkestone Harbour and seafront area. For example, the Mole Café which operated throughout the years of the war providing refreshment to those arriving in Folkestone or those about to travel to the Front has been reopened on the Harbour Arm as part of the wider regeneration of the area. The development on the seafront will also provide better links between the harbour area and the Leas which will connect two areas that have significant heritage assets relating to this theme as well as being along the route that soldiers

took on their way from the various camps and onwards to the various European battlefields. Not only will this be an important means of heritage regeneration, interpretation and promotion, but it will also raise the profile of Folkestone and the wider District as a place to visit.

Some of the sites and their history provide valuable opportunities to engage with schools, local people and visitors as an educational resource. Sites such as Shorncliffe which tell the stories of the lives and training of soldiers before they were moved on to the Western Front are important in engaging people with this aspect of history. They are also important in telling the more personal stories of the war and the experiences had by soldiers and the local people. Media such as war diaries, letters and the Mole Café visitor books provide a unique insight into the personal wartime experiences and have been made more accessible as an online resource.

The important collection of memorial sites and events that are held across the district continue to provide opportunities for reflection and remembrance for those lives lost and the role that the District played during the First World War.

7. Current Activities

The Step Short project aims to bring to life the role that Folkestone played during the First World War. The group's efforts were initially concentrated on the 2014 centenary to mark the start of the war, and since then they have continued to honour the men and women who served as part of the war effort. The Step Short team originally concentrated on three main projects; renovating the Road of Remembrance, making the historic visitors book from the former Harbour Canteen available online and working towards a Great War Visitors Centre. They now also provide a number of educational resources which include public lectures, talks in local schools, arranging local tours and media presentations. Not only are these activities designed to educate people on Folkestone's role in the First World War, but they are also meant to attract visitors to the town as well as acting as a possible starting point for military heritage tours.

To mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, Step Short are planning a number of special events in Folkestone during the summer of 2018. The Step Short Annual March is also held which begins at the Leas Cliff Hall followed by a service at the Memorial Arch and procession down to the Folkestone Harbour Arm. The Mole Café is open for refreshment as it was during the war.

- The Shorncliffe Trust – Fundraising, organisation and facilitation of many events, commemorations and activities. For example, 'Light in the Darkest Hour' is an annual commemoration service at the Shorncliffe Military Cemetery to remember those who were lost in the Battle of the Somme. Heritage tours?
- Step Short – Footsteps
- Commemoration events – For example Tontine Street Bombing anniversary.
- Poppies on the Leas.
- Kent in WW1 – Telling the stories of the towns and people in Kent during WW1. Includes films, walking routes and heritage trails.

- Shepway HEART Forum – Involvement in a number of projects working together with a number of groups/initiatives/organisations - Belgium Day 2018, Footprints, Shorncliffe Trust Heritage Tours.

8. Sources Used & Additional Information

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