



Welcome to this Remembrance 2020 edition of the *We Were There Too* newsletter. Read on to find out the exciting new ways we are marking Remembrance Day this year and how you can get involved. Also discover how Jews of Gibraltar were involved in the First World War thanks to brilliant work by our volunteers.

It is 101 years since the first two-minute silence was held across the country on the anniversary of the Armistice that brought an end to the First World War, 11th November 1919. This began the yearly tradition which became known as Remembrance Day.

THE SILENCE

IMPRESSIVE MOMENTS IN MANCHESTER.

It may be doubted whether the great central streets of Manchester have ever before been so silent as they were for two minutes yesterday morning. Even during the dead hours of the night there is ordinarily some little stir of traffic, and on Sundays silence never completely falls. Yesterday's silence was but the more impressive because it came in the presence of every conceivable possibility of commotion. The peace came out of tumult, and passed swiftly into tumult again.

The faintest noises now took on the portentousness of the little noises that fill a quiet church. A woman coughed fifty yards away; a baby gave a faint cry; one could not move a foot without self-consciousness. Here and there were persons crying quietly, women furtively drying their eyes. The street seemed the centre of a calm which one felt to be reaching out to an undefined circumference. One began to ponder whether a more wonderful idea than this had ever entered man's head; this simple, impressive "Be still, and know—." A horse's hoof suddenly struck a spark from the granite of the road; a tram bell clanged; and like a watercourse released from frost the traffic streams flowed noisily about the city.

Armistice Day 1919 in Manchester, reported in the Manchester Guardian 12th November 1919

This year the traditional Remembrance events at the cenotaphs and war memorials across the country will be all but cancelled. The *We Were There Too* team know it is

important to still mark this day, even in the face of the unprecedented challenges of this year because of the pandemic.

DIGITAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

We Were There Too believe that children and young people should still have an opportunity to experience and participate in a meaningful School Remembrance Assembly, despite the challenges we are all facing in 2020.

For the last few years *British Jews in the First World War We Were There Too* has had the privilege of leading Remembrance Assemblies in primary and secondary schools in London and Greater Manchester. We have been working hard to continue this whilst being unable to visit schools in person.



Working with *Discovery Education* the *We Were There Too* team of staff and volunteers have produced a suite of digital interactive Remembrance Assemblies for both primary and secondary schools. Using the same technology, we have also produced Community Remembrance presentations, for use in synagogues, residential homes, youth groups etc., or even individuals or families, which can be personalised to meet the needs of large or small communities.

Go to the brand new [Remembrance section](#) of our website to find out more about how you can use any of these free resources for your Remembrance service this November. If you have any questions please email contactus@jewsffw.uk and one of the team will be able to help!

Emily Hartman



Emily was a V.A.D nurse.

She was born on the 28th April 1895, and died on the 20th October 1918 of Influenza.

Born: 4 Iyar 5655

Died: 14 Heshvan 5679

Digital Remembrance Service - Commemorating Nurse Emily Hartman

100 YEARS SINCE BURIAL OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

On 11th November 1920, the Cenotaph in London was revealed as part of the Armistice Day service, along with the burial of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. This was a way to honour all of the ordinary personnel who had lost their lives in the First World War. It is our aim to put a name and story to these ordinary men and women who were part of the British Jewish community and gave their lives for their country.

Here are just a few of these names to remember particularly at this time of year, whose stories are available to read any time on our site jewsffww.uk.

It was very common for multiple members of the same family to be serving in the Armed Forces, especially after the introduction of conscription in 1916, but for the Cossack family from Manchester, this brought extra heartache as they lost three brothers: Marks, Hyman and Solomon.



[Marks Cossack](#) (left) enlisted into the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment in August 1914. He embarked on the HMHS Braemar Castle at Avonmouth in June 1915 bound for Gallipoli. Unfortunately just two months later on 9th August 1915, Marks was reported missing, presumed dead. He was just 20 years old.

[Hyman Cossack](#) (right) was a year younger than his brother Marks, and enlisted with the Lancashire Fusiliers. He was killed in action at the Battle of Passchendaele in Belgium on 9th October 1917. He was 21 years old.



[Solomon Cossack](#), known as Solly, was the elder of the three brothers, and was a Sergeant in the Labour Corps attached to the Lancashire Fusiliers. Solly served in France between December 1916 and March 1919. He died in 1920 at home in

Manchester, and is buried in a Commonwealth War Grave in Manchester Polish Jews Cemetery in Urmston. He was 29 years old.



Finally, whilst the 11th November 1918 was a day of celebration for many, on our site we recognise [Isaac Cohen](#), who lost his life on this day, and is buried in a Commonwealth War Grave in Cardiff Jewish Cemetery. Isaac was a Private in the Cheshire Regiment, and died at the age of just 28.

WWTT and AJEX historian Paula Kitching will soon be doing a talk entitled "The Unknown Soldier – 100 years of being a part of something". 100 years ago Issy Smith VC stood as part of the guard of honour when the Unknown Soldier's coffin was taken into Westminster Abbey – and that was important for Britain's Jews. In this talk Paula Kitching will address the importance of the Unknown Soldier and Issy Smith's presence in an official capacity on the day of the internment. Keep an eye on our social media (@jewsffw) and the [AJEX Youtube channel](#) to find out when and where.

WAR ON BRITISH SOIL IN 1914

This December it will be 106 years since the German Navy bombarded the English East coast as part of the First World War. Paula Kitching has been reflecting on the impact this had on attitudes to war in Britain at the time, and how it contributed to the importance placed on National Remembrance for the first time in a new article which you can read [here](#).



The damage caused in the December 1914 raid in Hartlepool (copyright Hartlepool Culture and Information)

SPOTLIGHT ON GIBRALTAR

Due to its position in the Mediterranean, Gibraltar played an important role in the First World War; as a base for both the Royal Navy and US Navy, a vital port for goods and supplies, and as a base for the Royal Army Medical Corps to treat wounded soldiers particularly from the Dardanelles Campaign in Gallipoli.

In 1914 a group of local members from the Calpe Rowing Club established the Gibraltar Volunteer Corps (GVC). As in all walks of life members of Gibraltar's vibrant Jewish community volunteered and served in the newly formed unit. Find out more about some of these men and Gibraltar's role in the First World War in our new [History Window](#), thanks to Lt Col Francis Brancato OBE, Honorary Colonel and historian Royal Gibraltar Regiment, and Col Martin Newman MBE DL, Colonel Cadets Royal Gibraltar Regiment; as well as volunteer Belinda Black for researching and uploading Personal Records of members of the Jewish community in Gibraltar.



Gibraltar Cross of Sacrifice in the 1920s, unveiled on Armistice Day 1922

Thanks for reading, we hope you enjoyed! Make sure to visit the website jewsffw.uk to upload your family stories, and to learn more about our project.

DON'T FORGET to visit our brand new [Remembrance portal](#) to find out how you can make use of our digital resources this November.

To get in touch, email contactus@jewsffw.uk or you can find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @jewsffw

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