



For Those in Peril on the Sea: Finding Ernest Head

Lesson Plan: Finding Ernest Head	
Teacher/s	Date
Subject History	Year
Learning Objectives Develop the use of historical terms related to cemetery research: headstone, obituary, regiment, ship, date of death, casualties. Use a range of historical information including primary sources. Understand the methods of historical enquiry.	Success Criteria The children know what an obituary is and understand the connection to war memorials and headstones.
Key Questions How can newspapers help with researching First World War headstones? What kind of information is given in an obituary? How do we use the CWGC website?	
Starter Activity/Introduction Tynemouth Preston Cemetery holds 152 First World War burials. Many of these are naval dead. Some were bodies recovered from the sea and buried in the nearest graveyard. Ernest drowned when he fell off British submarine C19 in the River Tyne. Read the short newspaper column together. Discuss how small obituaries like this might affect families: perhaps making the death of a son or husband more acceptable. Consider the information not given (location of death) and wartime censorship (location of submarine).	Resources Finding Ernest Head Activity.
Main Activity Check Able Seaman Ernest Heads details on the CWGC (Commonwealth War Graves Commission) website: http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx Irritatingly too much information such as adding rank, regiment and country will often give no result.	Resources Finding Ernest Head Activity CWGC website.
Plenary Click on Ernest's name and download the Certificate. Discuss the additional information given: date of death, age, father, first name of wife. What might be the answer to the two addresses for his widow – moved, gone to stay with parents?	Resources Finding Ernest Head Activity.



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Source 1 Dundee Courier
9th September 1914



Using Source 1 answer these questions as fully as you can:

What ship did Ernest serve in?	
What were his rank and service number?	Rank
	Service Number
Where was Mrs Head living?	
Why do you think the newspaper didn't print the location (place) of Ernest's death?	



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Source 2 Commonwealth War Graves Search box.

The screenshot shows a search form for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The fields are filled with the following information:

- Surname: Head
- Forename / Initials: Ernest (Forename selected)
- Country (commemorated in): Please select
- Cemetery or memorial: (empty)
- War: First World War
- Date of death: (starting): 01 Sep 1914
- Date of death: (ending): 30 Sep 1914
- Served with: United Kingdom Forces, Australian Forces, New Zealand Forces, Non-Commonwealth Nationals, Canadian Forces, Indian Forces, South African Forces
- Searching for individuals from other Commonwealth countries? [Click here](#)
- Served in: Army, Air Force, Navy, Merchant Navy, Civilian War Dead, Miscellaneous
- Unit: (empty)
- Rank: (empty)
- Service Number: (empty)
- Regiment: (empty)
- Secondary Regiment: (empty)
- Honours and Awards: Please select
- Additional Information: (empty)
- Search button

Using Source 2 Log on to <http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead.aspx> and fill in the search box just like the one on this sheet. Answer these questions from the search results:

When did Ernest die?	
Where is he buried?	
How old was he when he died?	
Where was his widow (wife) Mrs Head living according to this website?	