

## Key points of interest

### A) The Sunderland Echo Office

On the 4th August 1914 thousands of the town's residents gathered in this area eager for news about the crisis in Europe. Just after midnight news filtered through that Britain had declared war on Germany. The Echo reported that "for a moment there was a dead silence and then a cheer was sent up and parties of people on their way home sang the National Anthem."

### B) German Protestant Church

This Church was established in 1863 to serve the German community of Sunderland. However because of the war it was forced to close and the pastor, Paul Herzog, was arrested. Anti-German sentiment was high at this time and a number of German residents were subject to harassment and intimidation.

### C) Palatine Hotel

In the early days of the war, the Palatine Hotel functioned as a regular meeting place for the Legion of Frontiersmen. This organisation was established in 1905 by Roger Pocock. It discussed how best to prepare for war and what was needed to be done in the event of an invasion.

### D) Victoria Hall

By continental standards the British Army was very small. Lord Kitchener realised that if Britain was to win the war it would need to develop an army numbering millions of men.

Recruitment rallies were held at the Victoria Hall often attended by the Earl of Durham, who urged local men to do their patriotic duty and sign up to fight in the Army.

8.7 million men served in the British Army during the course of the war, with around 20,000 men from Wearside answering the call for "King and Country".

### E) Carlton House

This building, now part of Sunderland High School, was the childhood home of Captain George Allan Maling VC (1888-1929). Maling is the only Sunderland born man awarded the Victoria Cross. Whilst serving as a medic, he was awarded the VC for rescuing and treating 300 men during the Battle of Loos on the 25th September 1915. His VC is on display at the Army Medical Services Museum in Aldershot.

### F) Bede Tower Military Hospital

Military hospitals were established in Sunderland during the war to deal with the huge numbers of casualties from the front line. In this area, Bede Tower, Ashburne House in Backhouse Park and Hammerton House on Gray Road played their part in caring for the sick and injured soldiers.

The quartermaster at Hammerton house was Emily Vaux who received an MBE for her efforts during the conflict.

### G) War Memorial

The memorial was unveiled by Col. Vaux and dedicated by the Bishop of Durham on 26th December 1922. The column weighs 85 tons and is topped by a winged statue symbolising victory. Initially dedicated to those who fell during the First World War it has since become a focal point for remembering those who have lost their lives in subsequent conflicts.

Lest we forget.

To learn more about how Sunderland was affected by the First World War go to:

[www.sunderlandfirstworldwar.co.uk](http://www.sunderlandfirstworldwar.co.uk)

## Heritage Trails East Area

# Walk 14

## Sunderland in the First World War

### Walk Distance & Time:

1.8 miles or 2.6km

2 hour (approx)

### Start Point:

West Wear Street Car Park

### Finish Point:

War Memorial, Mowbray Park

### Facilities & Accessibility:

**Toilets:** Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens

**Catering:** City Centre Bars and Cafés

**Parking:** West Wear Street Car Park (parking charges apply)

**Accessibility:** Suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs

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# Walk 14

## Sunderland in the First World War

### Walk Directions

At West Wear Street car park entrance turn right and head up towards the Echo 24 building on the right.

This was formerly the site of the old Sunderland Echo printing office.

Just past the Echo 24 on the right is a vantage point that offers fine views of the river and coast beyond. Sunderland's proximity to the North Sea and its value as an industrial centre meant that it was vulnerable to a German attack. In the early days of the war the authorities went to great lengths to secure the coastline. Torpedo nets were laid at the port, and there were armed guards stationed on the Wearmouth Bridge and at Monkwearmouth railway station.

Return back towards the West Wear Street car park. Just before the car park entrance cross the road at the lights and along William Street.

Turn left at the Travelodge, along High Street West. Cross the road and turn right onto Villiers Street. Continue straight ahead towards Hudson Road. The former German Protestant Church can be seen ahead and to the left.

At the church turn right. At the end of Hudson Road turn left onto Borough

Road, passing the Burton House pub and continuing forward towards Mowbray Park. The building immediately ahead on the corner of Toward Road and to the left was formerly the Palatine Hotel.

Turn left up Toward Road, passing the park on the right. The Milltech building to the left occupies the former site of the Victoria Hall.

Continue straight ahead through the traffic lights, crossing the road and passing the shop on the left.

Turn right onto Mowbray Road. Carlton House is on the left.

At the junction turn right, heading back towards the city centre. Bede Tower, former military hospital appears on the right.

Continue forward crossing at the lights onto Burdon Road and down towards the war memorial on the right. An alternative route to the memorial can be taken through the entrance into Mowbray Park adjacent to the traffic lights on the right.

