



Use this discovery map to explore Falmouth and discover places of historical importance, sites of interest, significant landmarks and memorials from World War One.

This map was produced as part of the Falmouth in World War One project by the Falmouth History Archive, which is based at The Poly, Falmouth's local arts venue.

More information about the project can be found at [www.thepoly.org](http://www.thepoly.org) and in the Falmouth in World War One book, available to purchase from The Poly, 24 Church Street, Falmouth TR11 3EG



Images 2, 5, 7, 13 & 16 are from Brian Osborne's 'Images of the Past' collection. All other images are from the Collection of the Falmouth History Archive at The Poly.

Design by [www.arctype.co.uk](http://www.arctype.co.uk)

# FALMOUTH IN WORLD WAR I A DISCOVERY MAP

FALMOUTH  
HISTORY  
ARCHIVE



Visit points of interest around Falmouth and discover places of importance during the First World War from 1914–18.



1. Cross of Sacrifice at Swanpool Upper Old Cemetery



5. Surrendered U-boats at Castle Beach

Falmouth was not only a garrison town, with up to 14,000 soldiers at any one time, but also a defended port. Falmouth is the most westerly deep water port of the English Channel and Falmouth Bay was a strategic point for arrivals and departures.

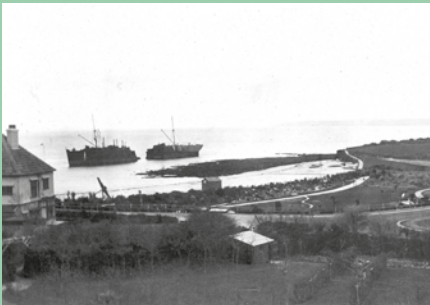
Early on in the War, photography and sketching became prohibited in the vicinity of the harbour and the coast for reasons of national security, so that we have very few visual records of the time.

Where possible we have used material from The Poly's Falmouth History Archive as illustrations.

- 1 SWANPOOL UPPER OLD CEMETERY**  
There are 95 WW1 Commonwealth War Graves across the cemetery – further along the path to the left of the cross is a group of 23.
- 2 GYLLYNGVASE BEACH**  
In June 1915 a swimming gala and fete raised money for the new 'War Hospitals Supply Department'. Special enclosures, a Grandstand and tents were erected on the beach and the races were held from a raft moored off shore.
- 3 SS PONUS**  
The oil tanker wrecked on Gyllyngvase Beach in a gale, November 1916. All the crew were rescued. The tanker burnt for three days. Two off-duty servicemen were awarded the RNLI's Silver Medal for their brave rescue of the ship's 2nd mate.



2. Gyllyngvase Beach



3. SS Ponus at Gyllyngvase Beach

- 4 VESSELS AWAITING CONVOY**  
In 1917 a boom defence was strung across the Bay from St Anthony Head to the Helford to allow ships to come together in convoys for protection.
- 5 SURRENDERED U-BOATS**  
In November 1920, six surrendered German submarines were towed into Falmouth Bay from Harwich for experimental purposes. The remains were beached at Castle Beach, and still provide a site of interest for divers.



4. 'Pathways of the Sea' by Claude Rowbotham (Falmouth Art Gallery)

- 6 ORIGINAL SITE OF FALMOUTH'S WAR MEMORIAL**  
Erected in 1920 it was removed to its present position in Kimberley Park in 1975, as veterans found it too exposed to attend seafront services.
- 7 GYLLYNGDUNE GARDENS AND THE PRINCESS PAVILION**  
The Gardens were opened in 1907 and the Pavilion built in 1910, for the enjoyment of both visitors and residents of Falmouth.



7. Troops at Gyllyngdune Gardens

- 8 THE ROYAL DUCHY HOTEL**  
Originally named the Pendennis Hotel when built in 1893. In 1915 it was taken over by the War Department for use as a military hospital. Many of the staff were from Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachments. After the War it became the Falmouth Hydro.
- 9 FALMOUTH HOTEL**  
105 Company Royal Garrison Artillery marching along the seafront. Rear Admiral Sir John S. Luard who headed the Naval Base at Falmouth stayed at the hotel until the end of the War.
- 10 FALMOUTH DOCKS**  
During the war Falmouth Docks were extremely busy both discharging cargoes and repairing merchant ships, including those damaged by enemy action. The Admiralty rented a coaling wharf and buildings both within and outside the docks for naval activities.



8. Now the Royal Duchy Hotel



9. Falmouth Hotel

- 11 FALMOUTH DOCKS STATION**  
The only station in Falmouth at that time, it received injured troops during WW1 and would have also seen rousing send-offs for troops newly trained from Pendennis Castle and Trevethan Camp.
- 12 IMPERIAL COURT**  
At the outbreak of WW1 the Navy requisitioned the house (then called Penwenack) and set up their HQ (HMS Vivid IV).
- 13 IN FALMOUTH HARBOUR**  
When war was declared these two German liners were in the harbour. Many Americans were on board. All 'aliens' were taken to workhouses in Cornwall for interviewing. The US Navy armoured cruisers 'Tennessee' and 'South Carolina' (shown behind) were on their way to assist US citizens in Europe.
- 14 WAR MEMORIAL**  
The cross was moved from the seafront in 1975. There are 242 names on the memorial.



10. Falmouth Harbour and Docks



13. German liners in Falmouth harbour



FOOTPATH  
ROAD  
DEFENCE LINE  
TRAIN TRACK  
TRAIN STATION  
WW1 CAMP LOCATION

# FALMOUTH HISTORY ARCHIVE



**15 BAND OUTSIDE THE DRILL HALL**  
This Drill Hall (now known as the Phoenix Cinema) was built in 1874 as the training centre for the 3rd Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Rifle Volunteers. It continued to be a training base for the local Territorial Force both before and during WW1.



15. Outside Drill Hall

**16 THE MOOR FROM WELLINGTON TERRACE**  
Trevethan School (under the clock tower) was requisitioned in August 1914 for hospital use. A Market was situated next to the Passmore Edwards building. Every Saturday there was a stall collecting donations of produce and cakes for the patients at the Military Hospitals in the town.



16. The Moor

**17 WW1 TANK ON DISPLAY**  
After the war, the town's efforts in buying Government War Bonds and Savings Certificates were rewarded by the presentation of a WW1 tank. It arrived by train in 1919, drove down to the Moor under its own power and stayed until 1927 when it was removed for scrap.



17. WW1 tank on display at The Moor

**18 FALMOUTH MOOR ON ARMISTICE DAY**  
The reading of the Armistice at 12 noon on 11th November 1918 saw a huge crowd gather as the news spread.



18. Armistice Day at The Moor

**19 PRINCE OF WALES PIER AND 'Q SHIP' MARY B MITCHELL**  
This former coastal trader which looked like a defenceless merchant vessel was converted to have 'hidden' guns – only revealed when submarines surfaced to attack.



19. Q Ship Mary B Mitchell at the Prince of Wales Pier

**20 ST. GEORGE'S HALL**  
Completed in 1912 it provided welcome entertainment in WW1 – concerts were held there and it also showed newsreels and films.

**21 THE POLYTECHNIC HALL**  
A volunteer Tea Committee ran a rest room for soldiers and sailors in the Hall (now known as The Poly) until YMCA huts were built in 1915. The Hall was leased to the Harris Brothers who put on entertainments (films, concerts). The local authority ran cookery classes at the back of the Hall.



21. Tea Committee inside the Polytechnic Hall

**22 PARISH CHURCH OF KING CHARLES, THE MARTYR**  
The 'Warrior Chapel' was dedicated in 1928 as a war memorial. It contains a Roll of Honour as a Book of Remembrance, with the names of all the local people who died in action.



**23 3 BANK PLACE**  
At the rear of the building was the hospital for the Royal Cornwall Sailor's Home, where a rota of local surgeons and physicians provided care.  
  
Newspaper accounts record that during World War One there were so many wishing to stay and who required nursing, that extra accommodation was sought in private houses nearby.



23. Grove Place and Bank Place in the 1900's

**FORMER SCHOOL BUILDINGS**  
Schools were requisitioned as military hospitals. Children continued to be taught in other places, including the Friend's Meeting House.

- 24 FRIEND'S MEETING HOUSE**
- 25 THE NATIONAL SCHOOL**
- 26 CLARE TERRACE SCHOOL**
- 27 WELLINGTON TERRACE SCHOOL**



23. Grove Place and Bank Place in the 1900's

**28 TREVETHAN CAMP**  
Trevethan Army Camp was built on part of Falmouth Golf Course, which lay to the north east of what is now Falmouth Hospital.



28. Trevethan Army Camp

**29 LANDWARD DEFENCES**  
A defensive ditch was dug from Swanpool to the Penryn River at Ponsharden, with provision for machine gun posts along the way.