

Learning from *Behind the Lines*



Tudhoe & Spennymoor Local History Society's film about WW1
www.durhamweb.org.uk/tslhs

KATE MAXEY & JOHN LECKIE



Sister Kate Maxey
MM RRC
(1876-1969).

This photograph is from her Great War album and shows her in France with an RAMC orderly.



John Leckie B.Sc (1887-1961).
The Maths master at Durham Road School and a conscientious objector who joined the Friends' Ambulance Unit in 1916.
This photograph courtesy of the Friends' Library, London.

The material listed opposite has been specially prepared based on the research for our film about medical services in WW1. The approach has been to concentrate on what happened to two of the main characters in *Behind the Lines* - Kate Maxey and John Leckie.

Kate was born in Spennymoor and trained as a nurse at Leeds General Infirmary. She served with the Territorial Force Nursing Service in France from October 1914 to March 1918, when she was severely wounded in a German Air Raid. In May 1920, she was one of the first people to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal from the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva.

John was born in Sunderland and was a pupil teacher there before gaining an External Degree from London University and joining the staff of the new Spennymoor Higher Elementary School in 1912. He opposed the war on religious grounds and, when military conscription was introduced, he volunteered for non-combatant ambulance work in France and served there from May 1916 to February 1919. In May 1919, his name was recorded on the *Roll of Honour* of Spennymoor & District teachers who served in the Great War.

List of education resources

* Extracts from our film on YouTube playlist :

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmz3mLIEBwoyNxCQhOP9ISA05d7K6g7_m

1. **A short Introduction to *Behind the Lines*: Kate Maxey and John Leckie** (1' 24") This clip introduces the film and WW1 medical services as experienced by nurse Kate Maxey and teacher John Leckie
2. **World War 1 Casualty Clearing Station** (3' 49") This describes the lines of evacuation and gives a good description of the work of a casualty clearing station, using dramatic footage and commentary from Professor Christine Hallett of the University of Huddersfield.
3. **Kate Maxey wounded** (4' 05") This describes how Kate Maxey was wounded and why she was awarded a medal.
4. **The effects of War** (4' 22") This gives an overview of the legacy of World War 1 medical developments by Dr John Banham of Tudhoe & Spennymoor Local History Society and has interviews with present day Army nurses from the Ministry of Defence film "Medical Miracles" (Crown Copyright 2014).

* PDF Timelines for both Kate Maxey and John Leckie

Activities supporting the Edexcel GCSE History course

Medicine in the Trenches during WW1

- Watch the **Film Extracts** and use the **Bingo activity** to re-inforce learning
- Using their **Timelines** complete the **Life graphs** for Kate Maxey and John Leckie
- **Heads & Tails activities** : matching historical terms to their definition
- **Your solution activity** : how would you treat wounded soldiers?

TUDHOE & SPENNYMOOR LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

in association with

Lonely Tower Film & Media



Lonely Tower

FILM & MEDIA

A hundred years ago this year, those who served and survived were returning from the First World War to Peace Celebrations held in towns such as Spennymoor. ***Behind the Lines*** tells the story of those from our town who saved lives in nursing and ambulance roles.

The full *Behind the Lines* film is available on *YouTube* under a creative commons licence.

See our website for details :

www.durhamweb.org.uk/tslhs

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LOTTERY FUNDED

Behind the Lines - Kate Maxey Time Line

Date	What happened to Kate	Source/Evidence	What was happening in the world
1876	Born in Clyde Terrace, Spennymoor to Jane and Walter Maxey. Walter was a shopkeeper at 25 & 27 High Street, Spennymoor	1881 Census	Ottoman Empire and Balkans at war
1903	Qualified as a nurse at Leeds General Infirmary	Maxey family photograph	The Women's Social and Political Union is founded in UK
1912	Joined Territorial Force Nursing Service	War Office Records at the National Archives	The Titanic sinks on its maiden voyage to the United States
1914	Called to serve in France on October 4th	War Office Records at the National Archives	Battle of Mons 21-23 August
1914	October - arrived at No 8 General Hospital in Rouen	War Office Records at the National Archives Photograph from Kate's album	1st Battle of Ypres 19 October – 30 November
1915	January - Sir Berkeley Moynihan inspecting Rouen war hospitals – he was advisor to Director General of the Army Medical Services	Matron in Chief's War Diary Photograph from Kate's album	Battle of Dogger Bank , considered a British naval victory

Date	What happened to Kate	Source/Evidence	What was happening in the world
1915	January - Maud McCarthy, Army's Matron in Charge, reported that huts at No 8 General Hospital were taking "the place of all the marquees for patients..."	Matron in Chief's War Diary Photo in Kate's album	Battle of Bolimow – Germany's first large scale use of poison gas shells fired at the Imperial Russian Army.
1915	September - Kate was serving with the 58 th CCS at Lillers. Commanded by Lt-Col L P Demetriadi, a surgeon from Huddersfield. In his diary he reports "as many as 2,000 patients here at one time" and on the plan is the Operating theatre where Kate was Sister and a blacked out room for doing X rays.	War Office Records at the National Archives Plan of Lillers from 58 th CCS War Diary in National Archives	Battle of Loos September and October
1915	November - Kate left 58 th CCS and went to No. 1 General Hospital at Etretat. She made a friend of Edith Appleton who kept an extensive diary.	War Office Records at the National Archives Edith Appleton's diary now published as "A Nurse at the Front".	Gallipoli Campaign coming to an end, with extreme weather causing heavy casualties among Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and British troops
1916	June - Kate was promoted to sister and mentioned in despatches. Edith Appleton records "took the half day yesterday. Walked to Villainville with Maxey. It was a rather enjoyable grey day..."	War Office Records at the National Archives Edith Appleton's diary now published as "A Nurse at the Front". Sketch in diary	Battle of the Somme July – December

Date	What happened to Kate	Source/Evidence	What was happening in the world
1917	September 21 st was transferred to 58 th CCS at Lilliers as Sister in Charge.	58 CCS War Diary at the National Archives	Battle of Passchendaele August to October
1917	October - Most patients admitted were “sick” and of those who were wounded, most were suffering from self-inflicted wounds.	58 CCS War Diary at the National Archives	
1918	21 st March – ammunition wagon at Lillers station bombed by the German Air Force and Sister Maxey, although badly wounded, went to the aid of her colleagues.	War Office Records at the National Archives	First day of German Spring Offensive
1918	26 th March - Kate was transferred to No 10 Stationary Hospital and later Millbank Hospital, London.	War Office Records at the National Archives	German offensive began to slow due to difficulties with supplying the German army
1918	June - Kate awarded the Military Medal and the Royal Red Cross (1 st Class) in the King's Birthday Honours list	Northern Echo newspaper	Soldiers from all sides begin to succumb to a deadly strain of influenza. Troop losses from the flu epidemic soon exceed combat casualties, especially weakening the hard-pressed German Army.

Date	What happened to Kate	Source/Evidence	What was happening in the world
1918	September – Kate requested a return to France but posted to No 2 General Hospital at Beckett Park, Leeds for the remainder of the war	War Office Records at the National Archives	Battle of St Mihiel – launched by the American General Pershing’s army against the retreating Germans
1918	November – part of Armistice Day celebrations at Beckett Park Hospital	Leeds Mercury newspaper report	Armistice Day 11 November
1919	June – Kate demobbed from the Territorial Force Nursing Service and went into partnership with a colleague at Heathroyde nursing home in Halifax.	War Office Records at the National Archives	May 1919 Peace Celebrations
1920	May – Kate awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal by the International Red Cross in Geneva	Scroll from International Red Cross Committee marking the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal.	May 1920 – Sinn Féin supporters and Unionists in pitched street battles in Londonderry
1969	14 March - Kate Maxey died	Registry of Deaths	March - July 1969 – USA’s Apollo Moon landings. First man on the Moon landed 20 July 1969.

Behind the Lines - John Leckie Timeline

Date	What happened to John	Source/Evidence	What was happening in the world
1887	Born August 7 th in Sunderland and educated at Bede School	Census 1891	Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee Year
1903	Became a pupil teacher	Sunderland Echo September 1904 - report of pupil teacher exams	Black Hand Gang assassinate King and Queen of Belgrade
1912	Maths teacher at Spennymoor Higher Elementary School	Spennymoor Higher Elementary School History	First Balkan War
1914	December – John gave a lecture on the theme of opposition to war at the Spennymoor Literary & Debating Society	Auckland Chronicle newspaper	Albert Hustin makes first successful non-direct blood transfusion with anticoagulants. 1st Battle of Ypres 19 October – 30 November
1916	April - John applied to join the Friends' Ambulance Unit (for Quakers, conscientious objectors and others opposed to war)	Application form to the FAU Photograph from British Red Cross archives	March 1916 conscription introduced in Great Britain Battle of Verdun – French defence of massive forts

Date	What happened to John	Source/Evidence	What was happening in the world
1917	After leave in September John was transferred to FAU Headquarters at Dunkirk for dental treatment	Friends Ambulance Unit Archives, Friends Library, London	Battle of Passchendaele August – October
1918	February - John returned to Ambulance Train 11	War Diaries of Ambulance Trains, National Archives	21 st March start of German Spring Offensive
1918	March – AT11 was treating American wounded as well as British casualties	War Diaries of Ambulance Trains, National Archives	American troops engaging the Germans for the first time
1918	November – the day after Armistice, AT11 loaded 338 casualties at Awoingt (near Cambrai) and transferred them to Rouen. Later that month they were transferring repatriated prisoners of war.	War Diaries of Ambulance Trains, National Archives	November 11 th Armistice signed and a ceasefire declared
1919	John left the FAU on 29 January and returned to teaching. His name recorded in the May Roll of Honour of Spennymoor & District teachers who served in the Great War	Friends Ambulance Unit Archives Roll of Honour of Spennymoor & District teachers	May – Peace Celebrations around Great Britain
1961	John died in Worthing, Sussex	Registry of Deaths	Construction of the Berlin Wall begins

Behind the Lines: Bingo Activity

The extracts from the film are on our YouTube playlist :

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmz3mLIEBwoyNxCQhOP9ISA05d7K6g7_m

Instructions

1. Read the film extract description and the bingo card words
 2. Watch the relevant extract and cross out the phrases that you hear in the film
-

WW1 Casualty Clearing Station

This shows the lines of evacuation route and a good description of the work of a casualty clearing station. Using dramatic footage and commentary from Professor Christine Hallett of the University of Huddersfield.

Patients were dying en route	The orders were not to stop to help wounded comrades	Increasingly inefficient lines of command
Orders were to stop and help wounded comrades	Cattle drawn wagons	Triage done by doctors
Purpose of Casualty Clearing Stations was to do emergency surgery	Moving war fare benefits	The idea was to get casualty clearing station in place about 6 miles from the front
The soldier first met a nurse at the regimental First Aid Post	Patients were back at Casualty Clearing Stations within 6 hours	Those unlikely to recover were put onto a hospital ship

Answers: WW1 Casualty Clearing Station

Did you cross out the boxes below? Then you are correct.

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Kate Maxey Wounded

This film shows how Kate Maxey was wounded and why she was awarded her medal and how soldiers were treated in a hospital.

Instructions

1. Read the film extract description and the bingo card words
 2. Watch the relevant extract and cross out the phrases that you hear in the film
-

that day 21 st March	Ammunition carriage actually packed with shells	She was awarded the Military Cross
Kate Maxey was working in a hospital ward	You were just in shock	Recuperated at sister's home at Spennymoor
They both died	Still continued to run the ward from the bed	She had done enough
mostly all down right hand side	Her left ear drum was burst	Kate went back to the Front

Answers: Kate Maxey Wounded

Did you cross out the boxes below? Then you are correct.

that day 21st March	Ammunition carriage actually packed with shells	She was awarded the Military Cross
Kate Maxey was working in a hospital ward	You were just in shock	Recuperated at sister's home at Spennymoor
They both died	Still continued to run the ward from the bed	She had done enough
mostly all down right hand side	Her left ear drum was burst	Kate went back to the Front

The Effects of War

This film gives an overview of the legacy of World War 1 medical developments by Dr John Banham of Tudhoe & Spennymoor Local History Society and has interviews with present day women medical staff from the Ministry of Defence film "Medical Miracles" (Crown Copyright 2014)

Instructions

1. Read the film extract description and the bingo card words
 2. Watch the relevant extract and cross out the phrases that you hear in the film
-

A legacy	Served some of the war	Millions from the area
Development of professional services	Kate did not visit County Durham	Hearing aid that whistled a lot
If you feel you shouldn't do the job	Standard of care is second to none	She didn't laugh
A plastic tube with a funnel	In that 1 hour of need	Crucible of conflict
Knitting socks	Times you just have to switch off	Speed is of the essence
Evolving medical services	Remarkable legacy of an extraordinary time	In the front of a helicopter

Answers: The Effects of War

Did you cross out the boxes below? Then you are correct.

A legacy	Served some of the war	Millions from the area
Development of professional services	Kate did not visit County Durham	Hearing aid that whistled a lot
If you feel you shouldn't do the job	Standard of care is second to none	She didn't laugh
A plastic tube with a funnel	In that 1 hour of need	Crucible of conflict
Knitting socks	Times you just have to switch off	Speed is of the essence
Evolving medical services	Remarkable legacy of an extraordinary time	In the front of a helicopter

Explain how reliable the sources of evidence for Kate Maxey's timeline are

Reliable

Use Kate's Timeline to fill in the purple boxes with what source was used to trace her timeline. Now do a graph of how reliable, or not, you think they are.

Born 1876

Jan 1915

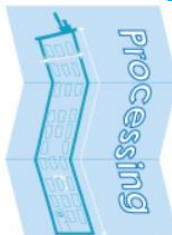
June 1916

Sept 1917

June 1918

Unreliable

We process information to help us to understand it more effectively.



Explain what emotions Kate might be feeling at key events in WW1

Positive emotions

Use **Kate's Timeline** to fill in the purple boxes with major battles that occurred during her work at the Front. Now draw a graph to show what you think she may have felt.

Oct 1914

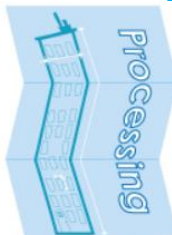
Nov 1915

June 1916

26th March
1918

Sept 1918

Negative emotions



Explain how reliable the sources are used for compiling John's timeline

Reliable

Use **John's Timeline** to fill in the purple boxes with the sources of evidence. Now do a graph of how reliable you think they are.



1887



1912



1914



1916



1917



1919

Unreliable

We process information to help us to understand it more effectively.



Explain how John's experiences reflect the progress of WW1

John's
reaction

Use John's Timeline to fill in the
purple boxes with battles of WW1.
Now do a graph of how you think
he felt.



1914



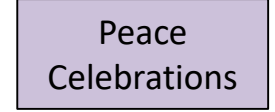
June 1916



Sept 1917



1917

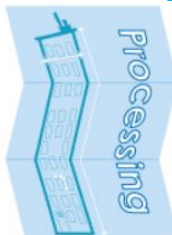


Peace
Celebrations

1919

John's
reaction

We process information to help us to understand it more effectively.



Behind the Lines - Heads and Tails Definitions **Revision Activity**

Treatment of wounded - when, where, who and how?
Use your prior knowledge to do this activity.

Match the term with the definition

Terminology	Definition
Medical Aid	
Regimental Aid Post	Seriously wounded treated here 7-12 miles from the front with X ray machines and operating theatres
Field Ambulance and Dressing Station	Train converted as mobile unit to transport wounded soldiers to a base hospital
Casualty Clearing Station	First Aid and initial assessment on the Front Line
Base hospital	Trained medical personnel to give immediate treatment and diagnosis
Royal Army Medical Corps	Trained medical personnel to give immediate treatment and diagnosis Treatment and convalescence facilities before sending back to Front Line or Blighty
Ambulance train	Train converted as mobile unit to transport wounded soldiers to a base hospital Temporary large mobile medical unit
Queen Alexandria Imperial Military Nursing Service - QUAIMNS	A voluntary unit of civilians providing nursing care for military personnel in the United Kingdom and various other countries in the British Empire. Most volunteers were of the middle and upper classes and unaccustomed to hardship and traditional hospital discipline.
VAD	Trained nurses working as a crop of the British army

Terminology	Definition
Causes of casualties	
Shrapnel	Destroyed or damaged tissue and even bone for inches around initial impact and could rattle brain around inside the skull.
Gas Gangrene	Shivering, pain in the bones and joints - caused by lice
Tetanus	Bacteria enter the body through a wound, multiply and release a toxin that affects the nerves, causing symptoms such as muscle stiffness and spasms.
Trench fever (pyrexia of unknown origin)	A bacterial infection that causes gas in tissues and blisters
Blast effect	Fragments of a bomb, shell, or other object thrown out by an explosion.
Chlorine gas	Odourless gas that settled as a volatile oily liquid, causing internal and external blisters, sore eyes, vomiting and burns.
Phosgene	Green cloud with a smell, Could lead to death by suffocation due to destruction of lung tissue Colourless and having an odour likened to "mouldy hay," Killed faster than chlorine gas
Mustard gas	Colourless and having an odour likened to "mouldy hay," Killed faster than chlorine gas

Terminology	Definition
Treatment	
Brodie helmet	Made rapid location of shrapnel etc. made surgery faster and more effective
Thomas splint	Sodium citrate prevented clotting, refrigeration and citrate glucose lengthened shelf life and a portable machine created by Geoffrey Keynes increased use close to front line
Blood transfusion	Carrel-Dakin method of chemical solution flowing through a wound to prevent spread of bacteria
Storing blood	Stabilises a fracture preventing movement that can otherwise lead to blood loss, shock and death
Treatment of infected wounds	Process of transferring blood intravenously
Mobile X ray machine	Made of metal, introduced fully in 1916, led to reduction in head wounds by estimated 80%
Gas mask	Only about 6,000 British soldiers dying as a result of gas attacks, issued 1915

Behind the Lines: Heads and Tails Definitions

Revision Activity

Answers

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Mobile X ray machine	Made rapid location of shrapnel etc. made surgery faster and more effective.

Behind the Lines– Your Solution Activity

Imagine you are a doctor on the Front Line. Read through the different scenarios and then decide which treatment you would give the casualty. Use your prior knowledge to help you.

Mark your answer with a line.

Scenario	Treatment
A soldier has shivering, pain in the bones and joints for about 5 days, then it went away, now it has come back again.	Blood transfusion – using blood group O and the Cambrai blood bank using Sodium Citrate to prevent clotting
A soldier has loss of blood from multiple shrapnel wounds	Use the new portable X ray machine
A soldier has a wound from a German bayonet (with the saw edge) so very high danger of gangrene	Use the Thomas splint to stop his bones grinding on each other during transfer and causing blood loss.
Soldier was not wearing his hat so had multiple bullets and shrapnel wounds in the head, many bedded in deep and can't be seen.	Diagnosis: Pyrexia of unknown origin or trench fever, caused by lice – disinfection and rest for about 6 weeks
Soldier needs to transfer from the first aid post but has a fractured leg bone and is losing blood	Try to prevent spread of bacteria with Carrel – Dakin method of chemical solution flowing through the wound

Behind the Lines: Your solution Activity

Answers

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Soldier needs to transfer from the first aid post but has a fractured leg bone and is losing blood	Use the Thomas splint to stop his bones grinding on each other during transfer, and causing blood loss