



BANK OF ENGLAND

The Bank Remembers: 100 Years On

1914–2018





Mark Carney
The Governor of the
Bank of England

“ One hundred years ago on the 11 November 1918, an armistice brought the fighting of the First World War to an end. As we mark this centenary, we remember the 71 members of Bank staff who left their offices and didn't return, as well as the millions of others who have lost their lives in conflict.

Surviving records tell us of staff experiences on the continent including the heroic efforts of Captain Eugene Bennett, an assistant from the Accountant's Department who earned the Victoria Cross for his courageous undertaking at the battle of Le Transloy. Or the tragic accounts of brothers Richard and Arthur Buller, who left the Cashier's Department and Drawing Office to serve in August 1914. They both died whilst in service just under a month apart.

The outpouring of generosity and support by Bank staff which followed Armistice Day ensured the efforts of those who served would not be forgotten. In addition to a memorial service at Southwark Cathedral and a permanent memorial erected in Garden Court in 1921, £1000 was donated by the Bank to Guy's Hospital which went on to provide a bed in a surgical accident ward.

This generosity continues to live on in the Bank today with our charitable fundraising and other volunteering initiatives which colleagues get involved with throughout the year.

In 2018 the United Kingdom is pausing to reflect on the centenary of the end of the First World War, in the same way the country did in 2014 to mark the start of the conflict. We are lucky to be able to look back into our Archive to find out more about staff from 100 years ago, and also celebrate involvement of our staff in the Armed Forces today. Some colleagues have seen active service and others are involved in the Reserves. This year, the establishment of BETS network (Bank Employees that Served) gives us the opportunity to recognise their commitment to this country.

This booklet allows us to discover the history of the Bank and its staff from 100 years ago, as we take time to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by that generation. ”





Left Image of Miss Adela Pratt, 1918 (Bank of England Archive, 15A13/3/2)

First World War and the stories of the Fallen

On 10 August 1914, the minutes of the Court of Directors record that the 'Governor reported that he had authorised leave of absence with full pay to be granted to as many Clerks as can possibly be spared from the Bank to serve in the Defensive Forces of the Country, and that at the present time 85 clerks at the Head Office and 18 clerks at the Branches had actually joined.' (ref. G4/137) Many of those that served were clerks from the Cashier's Department as well as the Bank's branches and the Printing Works. For example, within the clerical staff, 325 members of staff went to serve out of a pre-war total of 729.

The outbreak of war led to a momentous shift in the Bank's workforce. Temporary male clerks were recruited from all backgrounds between 1915 - 1920, and included the likes of musicians, journalists and schoolmasters. There had also been just 66 women clerks employed at the Bank in August 1914, but by the summer of 1919 the number of temporary and permanent women clerks had jumped dramatically to 2,450. It proved to be exciting for many women as they were now given new opportunities with more physically and mentally demanding responsibilities. Janet Hogarth, one of the first women to be employed at the Bank in 1894 recalled 'Life was a drab affair for the women clerk before the war..., so drab that the war with its privations gave to many a woman the brightest and most exciting time she had ever had in the whole of her working life.' (ref. 8A115/1)

In addition to women stepping in to fill the gaps in the workforce, the Bank's Court of Directors' agreed that Bank pensioners should be able to return to work should they wish to. Many did so, and were recognised for the contribution during the war effort by receiving supplementary pensions on their retirement.

71 members of Bank staff lost their lives in the Great War between 1914-1918. On the 12 December 1918, the Court of Directors passed the following Resolution:

'That the Court desire to express their sorrow that many members of the staff have lost their lives in their country's service: their sympathy with the relatives of the fallen: their appreciation of the patriotism of all those members who have served in His Majesty's Forces: and their thanks to the entire staff of the House – men and women of all ranks both permanent and temporary who have borne the strain imposed by the long and arduous hours of work during the past four years.' (ref. G4/141)

Right Image of War Loan Office, 1917 (Bank of England Archive, 15A13/3/1)



Here are the experiences of just a few members of Bank staff who left the Bank to serve:



Eugene Paul Bennett

Eugene Bennett was an assistant in the Bank's Accountant's Department when he was granted War Leave on 4 August 1914. He joined as a Private in the 28th Battalion of the London Regiment (Artists Rifles) and proceeded to France in October 1914. Within a few months, he had transferred to the 2nd Battalion of the Worcester Regiment as a 2nd Lieutenant. In May 1915, Bennett was injured after his trench exploded beneath him at Festubert. Following recovery, he returned to the front line where he served in the Battle of Loos, and was subsequently awarded the Military Cross (MC). It was Bennett's efforts at the battle of Le Transloy that earned him his Victoria Cross (VC). Whilst in command of the second wave of an attack, Bennett found the first attack to have suffered heavy casualties and the loss of a commander. With his men, he managed to advance under shell fire and reach the objective. It is thought that this attack would have failed if not for his courageous efforts. Alongside a hero's welcome, Bennett received congratulations from the Bank's Court of Directors. He returned to work at the Bank following demobilisation, but left in 1921 to read for the Bar. He became the first VC to qualify in 1923.



Edgar Dorrington Webb

Edgar Webb was elected as a clerk to the Bank of England on 12 May 1910, aged 18. Webb later became an Assistant in the Cashier's Department in 1912, before being granted War Leave by the Bank on 4 August 1914. Whilst a Sergeant for the 21st Battalion, London Regiment, he was killed in action on 5 May 1915, aged 23.



Charles Bernard Jarrett

Charles Jarrett became an assistant in the Cashier's Department in April 1906. He later became a 4th class clerk in the Private Drawing Office, before being granted War Leave by the Bank on 4 August 1914. In August, Jarrett was appointed Assistant Paymaster in charge of a mine carrier called the 'Harden', where he was involved in the laying of mines near the south coast. By June 1915, Jarrett had become the Assistant Paymaster in Charge on the H.M.S. Sir John Moore where he was involved in operations along the Belgian coast as part of the Dover Patrol. In 1917, he was promoted to Paymaster of the Royal Naval Reserves before being posted to H.M.S. Minerva. Jarrett returned to work at the Bank of England on 30 June 1919, after nearly five years of active service.

Staff memorials: The creation of the St Christopher Fund

In the Bank's Garden Court stands the St Christopher statue...
This is its story.

It all began in 1919 following the end of the First World War when Bank of England staff held a meeting to decide how best to perpetuate the memory of their colleagues who had fallen in the war. It had to be something everlasting, something that would be visible for future generations of Bank staff.





1961

Left Christopher Ward, Bank of England Archive, 7A377/15)

Below Statue of St Christopher and the Holy Child, Bank of England Garden Court



Many suggestions were made including a memorial chapel within the Bank, a memorial hall to serve as a Bank library and museum, and scholarships at universities for Bank clerks sons. It was finally decided by a staff vote to erect a memorial in the Garden Court, and to endow a bed to Guy's Hospital, and to arrange a memorial service.

An appeal was made to the Staff for funds and was an immediate success. The staff contributed one shilling a month and the required amount was reached very quickly. The first part of the Commemorative act was the memorial service. This was held in Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 12th April 1919.

In deciding on the form of the memorial in the garden the Organising Committee first favoured a memorial cross, but the staff had subscribed so generously that it was decided it should be a symbolic form. It was then that the happy thought occurred to the Committee to link up the tradition of the old Bank garden which once formed the churchyard of the ancient Parish church of St Christopher le Stocks, with the tragic losses of the Great war and the story behind St Christopher, where the strong and healthy help to carry the burdens of those less fortunate. This was considered a fitting symbol of the willingness to face death shown by the Bank's staff who died in the conflict.

The second part of the Commemorative act was completed on 12 June 1919 when a cheque for £1000 was presented to Guy's

hospital for the endowment of the bed. In those days most hospitals depended almost entirely on voluntary contributions in order to maintain their services. The hospital named one of their wards Christopher and transferred the memorial bed to it. The authorities of Guy's, in grateful acknowledgement of this gift, expressed their readiness to assist any member of the Bank staff who might need treatment within its walls. This would not be the end; staff continued to pool the subscriptions and in 1944 enough money was raised to endow a whole ward of 26 beds costing £30,500.

The third and final part of the Commemorative Act took place on the 11th of November 1921. In a very crowded Garden Court, men and women stood shoulder to shoulder to watch the unveiling of the statue of St Christopher.

The St Christopher Fund today assists staff and pensioners towards the cost of their private medical treatment. An article published in The Old Lady magazine in 1961 stated that the "St Christopher Health Fund has a past of which the staff can be justly proud, and provided each individual of this generation of Bank Clerks is prepared to support it by becoming a subscribing member there is no reason to doubt that its future will be equally distinguished." From small beginnings the scale of assistance given has increased year by year and in the 2017/18 claim year with over 4000 members, over £316,000 was granted to staff & pensioners to assist towards the cost of their private medical treatment.

THIS WARD WAS NAMED
CHRISTOPHER WARD
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE PROVISION
MADE FOR THE WARD
BY
THE BANK OF ENGLAND
STAFF (ST CHRISTOPHER) FUND
1923 - 1944

ENDOWED BY THE
STAFF OF THE BANK OF
ENGLAND
AS A MEMORIAL TO THEIR
COLLEAGUES WHO FELL IN
THE GREAT WAR. 1914-1919

Above Plaque and bed plate
from Guy's Hospital, London
(Bank of England Archive,
7A377/15)

Right Inscriptions of
staff names on the
statue of St Christopher
and the Holy Child



WILLIAM · LOVELOCK · WILLIAM · JAMES · MARCHMENT · EDWIN · JOHN ·
D · HARCOURT · PROCTOR · MAUNSELL · HUGH · GREIP · MERTENS · ARTHUR · CHARLES ·
MANICO · NASH · FRANCIS · METHUEN · NOEL · BARNARD · CHAPPE ·
ALEXANDER · PALFREYMAN · FRANK · PHILIP · PURDIE · GODFREY · LAWRENCE ·
H · HORACE · STANLEY · ROBERT · WILLIAM · FREDERICK · SAWYER · WILFRID · ADOLPH ·
RENCH · STEPHENS · D · S · O · M · C · HERBERT · GORDON · STUART · DOUGLAS · CLIFTON ·
MARSHALL · TREVARTHEN · GEORGE · EDWARD · TRUBY · GERALD · VAUGHAN ·
KENNETH · WEATHERHEAD · EDGAR · DORRINGTON · WEBB · ALFRED · LANGTON ·
ERNEST · WHITEHOUSE · ARTHUR · DENTON · WHITTLE · JOSEPH · WILLIAM ·

Impact of the Second World War on the Bank of England



Bomb damage to Bank station, January 1941.
(Bank of England Archive, 15A13/1/4/38)

The Bank of England was spared any direct hits by bombs during the First World War. But by 1937, it was beginning to closely look into the dangers that air raids might cause for staff working in the Bank's buildings.

The vaults were recognised as providing suitable places of safety for staff during raids, with photographs from the Bank's Archive showing a large vault re-purposed as a staff canteen, and a first aid station and small operating theatre also known to have been fitted into the space.

Gas masks were distributed in 1938, with all staff having to wear them for five minutes each week, whilst the Bank's Medical Officer, Dr Donald Norris, provided training in first aid, gas detection and decontamination. In 1941, bomb damage occurred at Bank Station as depicted.



1942

Image of Hurstbourne Camp, c. 1942
(Bank of England Archive, 15A13/15/32)

By 1938, safeguarding the production of bank notes was being discussed, and a move out of London was deemed necessary. Land beside the papermaking factories, Portals in Overton, Hampshire, was leased to the Bank where they built what was to be known as 'Shadow Factory A'. This location provided a logical solution as the paper mills of Portals Ltd had been supplying paper to the Bank since the early eighteenth century. Construction of a 'Shadow Factory B' shortly followed to house the Dividend Preparation Office which also relocated. Evacuation plans involving the Accountant's Department and areas of the Establishment Department were underway by 1939. Following several discussions, the Bank settled on The Mansion at Hurstbourne Priors in Hampshire. Due to the hundreds of staff that would be required to keep the Accountant's Department operating whilst they were evacuated, wooden buildings were created on adjoining land that became known as Hurstbourne Camp. Other sites at Foxdown House and Whitchurch were also set up. Bank staff had to quickly adapt to a rural lifestyle

where many lived communally. Bee hives were maintained, vegetables grown and staff assisted with the local harvest. A doctor and dentist were also recruited, and Bere Hill House at Whitchurch became a hospital. By 1942, inhabitants of the Hampshire sites reached over 2,000. Inevitably, the war had a significant impact on the staff head count at the Bank. As a result of the Ministry of Labour stipulating that the banking industry qualified as a 'reserved occupation', the Bank could only retain men over the age of 30 years. This meant that the Bank urgently needed to recruit more staff to fill the gaps that war had created, especially in areas such as exchange control. Women were a significant part of the solution. Restrictive entry qualifications were altered, and changes were made so that those who married could continue to work. Now many more permanent and temporary women employees were undertaking roles such as serving on counters and contributing to routine banking office functions, which were areas of work that had previously been reserved for men. At the outbreak of war, staff totalled 4,120, but within

Right The Bronze Wreath, Bank of England Garden Court

1942

Below right Hurstbourne Camp: Chief Accountant's Correspondence Office - Typists Office, c.1942 (Bank of England Archive, 15A13/15/63)

two years, this number had reached a wartime peak of 6,285, with many more women now employed at the Bank. In fact by February 1940, for the first time since the Bank's foundation in 1694, women employees outnumbered men. In total, 2,209 members of staff were released by the Bank to join the Forces during the Second World War. In June 1947, a War Memorial Committee was formed under Governor Catto, for Bank staff to discuss how to commemorate their colleagues who had lost their lives. The Committee favoured inscribing the names of those who died in the Second World War on memorial panels in the Front Hall, similar to panels that had been erected to mark the First World War. Additionally, a bronze wreath designed by Charles Wheeler was located at the foot of the St Christopher Statue in Garden Court. It was unveiled by Governor Catto as part of a service of dedication in Garden Court that took place on 20 October 1948. Memorials were also erected at the Bank's branches across the country where there had also been loss of life.



WAR LOAN

“ENGLAND EXPECTS THAT EVERY MAN THIS DAY WILL DO HIS DUTY.”

YOU CAN SUBSCRIBE FOR THE LOAN AT THIS OFFICE

BLADES, EAST & BLADES, Printers, 23, Abchurch Lane, E.C.

Left: A poster for the original sale of War Loans issued to the branches by the London County Bank and the Midland Bank, 1917 (Bank of England Museum, D 1084)

The Bank Remembers

2014-2018

From 2014 - 2018, the nation marked the centenary of the First World War. During these four years, events took place at the Bank to allow colleagues to remember the seventy-one members of Bank staff who lost their lives and the millions of others who have lost their lives in conflict. There was also the opportunity to learn about the impact of wartime on the Bank.

An exhibition curated by the Bank’s Museum opened in July 2014 to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the war. This display explored the Bank’s role in tackling the crisis, and how the Bank and Treasury faced the economic impact of the war. The social impact of the war was also examined by telling the stories of Bank staff that served, as well as the history of the Bank’s war memorial, and the changing workforce of the Bank during wartime. In November 2014, a service was held in the Front Hall to mark the centenary of the beginning of the First World War.

November 2018 marked the centenary of the end of the First World War. In the weeks leading up to Armistice Day 2018, a temporary exhibition by the Bank Archive was revealed to Bank staff in Front Halls of Threadneedle Street and Moorgate. It included a photograph projection of Bank staff who served, as well as information boards about the individuals and their stories.

An Archive display in the Museum was also launched, based on a joint research project by the Bank Archive and the School of Geography at Queen Mary University of London. The display illustrated the large-scale effort of the Bank to manage the war bonds that were issued to the public, in order to finance the First World War. It also featured some of the investors whose names were uncovered as part of the Archive research.

On 6 November, 'Now the guns have stopped: a concert for Remembrance' took place in the Bank of England Court Room. It was held to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, as well as the one hundred year anniversary of the vote being granted to women. A packed programme included a variety of readings presented by Bank staff, and performances by the

Bank's choir and soloists. Some of the highlights included a premiere of staff member's Romilly Wood's arrangement of 'Silent Night', to celebrate the so-called 'Christmas Truce' of 1914, the ladies' choir performing the suffragette anthem 'March of the Women' by Ethel Smyth, and challenging works by Herbert Howells, Karl Jenkins and Edward Elgar.

Proceeds from the evening went to the Bank's two charities of the year, The Brain Tumour Charity and London's Air Ambulance.

On Friday 9 November, colleagues from across the Bank gathered to pay their respects in the Front Hall. Reverend Jeremy Crossley, Vicar of St Margaret's Lothbury, welcomed everyone with an opening prayer and address. This was followed by a war time account written by C B Jarrett, an assistant from the Bank's Cashier's Department. Music by the choir included 'For the Fallen' and 'Abide with me'. A two minutes' silence was observed by all staff, and wreaths were laid by the Governors at the foot of the Bank's memorial statue of St. Christopher in the Garden Court.



Formation of Bank Employees That Served Network (BETS)

From 1780 to 1973 the Bank had its own Army guard force, known as the Bank Picquet. Although varying in number throughout the years, generally each guard consisted of one officer, one sergeant, one corporal, one lance corporal, eight guardsmen and a drummer. Inside the Bank, there were two sentry posts, one outside the Counting House Parlour and another outside the bullion vaults. These soldiers were usually provided by one of the battalions of the Household Brigade fulfilling public duties in London.

On 11 November 2018 the Bank was honoured to have Lt Col Jonathan Brinn, Lance Sergeant Cameron Glancy and Privates Andrew Hope and Jack Pilling join the Bank's Remembrance service from the Guards, to not only add a significant degree of aplomb to the proceedings but to more importantly further remind us of the Bank's connections to the Armed Forces. With the Guards and the Remembrance service helping to remind us of the historical links to the Military, there was also a contingent of Bank staff standing in the Garden Court. These were the Bank staff members who currently, or previously, have served in the Armed Forces.

This marked the formation of the Bank's newest employee network, Bank Employees That Served (BETS). BETS aims to recognise, support and champion the skills and service of those linked to the emergency services or Armed Forces. To help the Bank to not only look back with pride, but also to see the impact and benefit the Armed Forces bring to the Bank.



Members of the Bank Employees That Served (BETS) community and one guardsman. Taken in Garden Court on 9th November 2018

This booklet marks the 100 year anniversary of the First World War.

Bank of England Archive

Telephone 020 3461 3388

Email archive@bankofengland.co.uk

www.bankofengland.co.uk/archive

Front cover: Lord Norman laying a wreath in the Bank Garden on Armistice Day, 1931 (Bank of England Archive, E8/44).