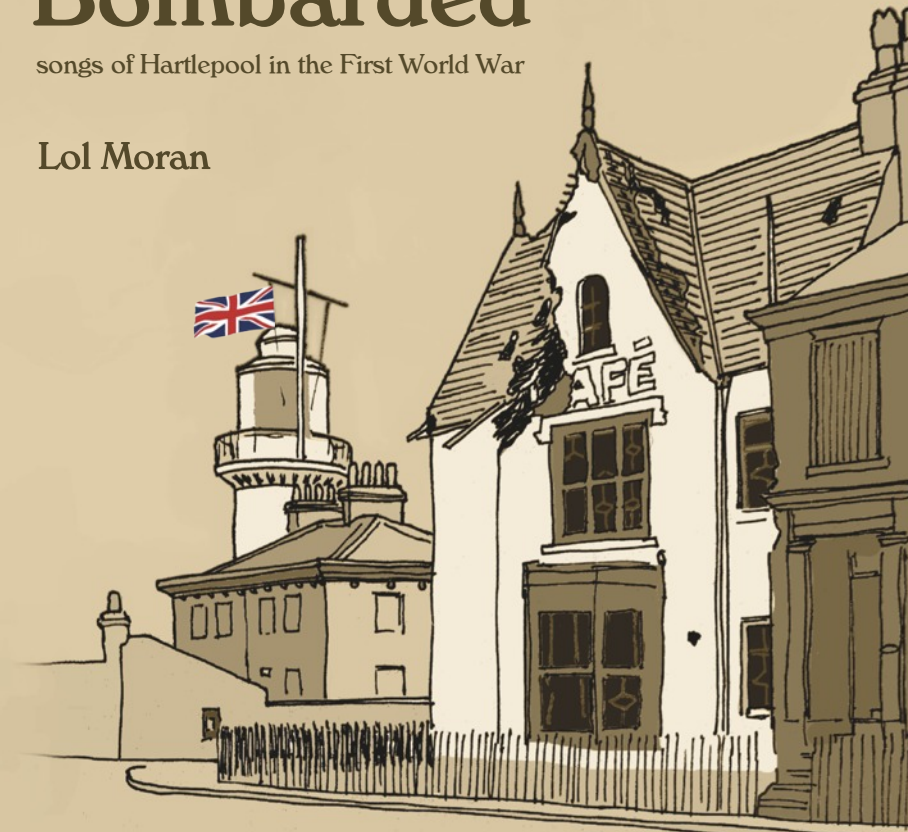


# Bombarded

songs of Hartlepool in the First World War

Lol Moran



## THE ALBUM

In May 2014, I visited Hartlepool's Heugh Battery Museum for the first time, and was reminded of the details of the Bombardment. Within two weeks I had seen the *Young 'Uns*, who sang several of Sean Cooney's songs about the town, and a play about the First World War's effect on a morris dancing side. During the play I decided to write a song about the Bombardment.

The next day, *Over By Christmas* appeared. *Sea-shells* arrived two days later, and in little over a week I'd ended up with an album's worth of songs, mostly about the Bombardment from the imaginary viewpoints of different people.

Some of the tunes allude to the music-hall and ragtime styles of the time, and are laid out in a broadly chronological order. Some are serious and some less so, but I hope that none are seen as disrespectful to those who died. The imagined conversations and thoughts are almost certainly nowhere near real ones, but I hope they create a mood of the events. In places the distinction between the two Hartlepoons has been ignored for simplicity, and as some of the accounts of the events are contradictory, I may have picked the wrong ones.

*Lol Moran*



## THE SONGS

**The Durham Pals** As part of the army recruitment drive, former school classmates, rugby teams and other ready-made groups of men were encouraged to enlist together in 'pals' battalions such as those of the Durham Light Infantry, the Durham Pals.

**It's A Long Way to The Front Line** The big hit song of the First World War was *It's A Long Way To Tipperary*, written by two Englishmen from the Birmingham area. This song has been parodied many times, and here's a Hartlepool version.

**All Thanks to the War** Imagined thoughts of women, coping while their men were away at the war.

**I Know A Secret** The British had cracked the German Navy's communication codes, but didn't want this fact known. As a result, the raid on the Hartlepoons was not unexpected. Senior officers were told, but couldn't reveal it to their men. This song imagines the thoughts of the commanding officer of the Heugh and Lighthouse Batteries on the subject. (Note: there are differing accounts of how widely this advance warning was distributed among the military or the civilian population.)

**What Was All That About?** This song imagines the bemused response of the gun crews to their commanding officer's unusual early visit on the day of the raid.

**Riding on the Top Deck of a Tramcar** An imagined eyewitness account of the Bombardment from across the bay near Seaton Carew.

**Where's the Sub When You Need It?** Imagined comments of the watching gunners to the Navy's subsequently criticised handling of the attack.

**Who Put That Lighthouse There?** More imagined comments from the gunners. During the action, the most accurate of the Headland's guns was having some success, so the damaged *Blücher* changed its position in order to be hidden from the line of fire by the lighthouse.

**Over By Christmas** Intended as a song about the Bombardment, this ended up being as much about the war. Theo Jones died near the Heugh Battery, and was the first soldier killed by enemy action on British soil for more than 200 years. Hilda Horsley was both the first female and the first civilian killed by enemy action on British soil during the war.

**It's a Long Way to the Headland** *Tipperary* again, this time referring to the journey of the German convoy from its Wilhelmshaven base in Germany.

**Remember Scarborough!** After the raid which had attacked the Hartlepoons, Scarborough and Whitby, a propaganda poster was issued, which ignored the hardest-hit of the targets, the Hartlepoons. The verses imagine the

thinking behind the poster, with the chorus being the result.

**Hans Across the Sea** A spoof recruitment song for the Kaiser's Navy, written for my mate Ian, who suggested the words "German Ocean" would be good in a song. The raid convoy had divided into two groups, one to attack Scarborough and Whitby, and the other the Hartlepoons.

**The Kaiser Demolished Our Grandstand** Later in the war there were three bombing raids on the Hartlepoons by German Zeppelin airships. The second Zeppelin was shot down after bombing the grandstand at Hartlepoons United's football ground. Its temporary replacement survived for 66 years, being demolished only when wooden grandstands were banned for fire safety reasons.

**It's a Long Way to the Trenches** Another version of *Tipperary*; this time having a dig at the generals who sent thousands to their deaths while remaining remote from the action.

**Sea-shells** A simple song. Its message is whatever you think it is.

Net proceeds of all sales of this album will go to the Heugh Battery Museum, which preserves the historic site that is the actual 1914 location for four of the songs.

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A collection of songs inspired by the German naval bombardment of the Hartlepoons on 16th December 1914, and the subsequent Zeppelin raids.

- 1 The Durham Pals
- 2 It's a Long Way to the Front Line \*
- 3 All Thanks to the War
- 4 I Know a Secret
- 5 What Was All That About?
- 6 Riding on the Top Deck of a Tramcar
- 7 Where's the Sub When You Need It?
- 8 Who Put That Lighthouse There?
- 9 Over By Christmas
- 10 It's a Long Way to the Headland \*
- 11 Remember Scarborough!
- 12 Hans Across the Sea
- 13 The Kaiser Demolished Our Grandstand
- 14 It's a Long Way to the Trenches \*
- 15 Sea-shells

Vocals, instruments, arrangements,  
engineering and graphics: Lol Moran

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songs marked \* are to the tune of  
*It's A Long Way to Tipperary*  
(©1912 Williams/Judge)

Thanks to Derrick, Leo, Paul, Phil and  
Ruth, but especially to Anne and Ian for  
their support, encouragement, advice  
...and their tolerance.

LM141

Born on the Headland but raised in what was then still West Hartlepool, Lol has for more than thirty years written, performed and recorded folk music, mostly in the Midlands. In that time he has possibly sung *The Hartlepool Monkey Song* more times than anybody else!

In aid of the Heugh Battery Museum,  
Moor Terrace, The Headland,  
Hartlepool, TS24 0PS  
heughbattery.com



*The viewpoint of the picture\* is against the wall of the Heugh Gun Battery. The close proximity of housing meant that shells aimed at the battery were likely to hit houses. (\* drawn from a photo provided by the Culture & Information Service of Hartlepool Borough Council)*