



East End Park
Halbeath Rd, Dunfermline KY12 7RB
01383 745901
enquiries@parsfoundation.co.uk
www.parsfoundation.co.uk

Hunter's Story - Sergeant DF Hunter VC (Victoria Cross)

We would like to invite schools to become involved in this remarkable story of a local man who was awarded the Victoria Cross in World War 1.

Schools may wish to involve pupils in

1 - Researching the story

2 - Making suggestions for what might be placed in a time capsule under the memorial plinth outside East End Park stadium

This may appeal to senior pupils, especially those studying History with VC winners and/or French. Primary schools may prefer to consider their suggestions for the time capsule.

One of the grandsons of Sergeant Hunter, Ian Hunter, has spent a huge amount of time researching the story and discussions with Fife Council to celebrate the centenary anniversary in September this year are at an advanced stage.

Full details are below. The suggested involvement of local schools would only be to the great benefit and credit of the pupils.

As part of Dunfermline Athletic's School Engagement Team, I'm delighted at the huge efforts Ian Hunter has put into researching his grandfather's Victoria Cross and his offer to make this available at no charge to schools.

I'm also very pleased to offer liaison between your school and Mr Hunter. He has also offered to meet directly with you to discuss any aspects.

Please let me know by 30 March if you would like to be involved, and the level of your proposed involvement.

David Dawson

The Pars Foundation, Schools Engagement Programme

February 20 2018



East End Park
Halbeath Rd, Dunfermline KY12 7RB
01383 745901
enquiries@parsfoundation.co.uk
www.parsfoundation.co.uk

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/kwg9sxa336frpwo/DFH%20The%20Man%20%26%20The%20Medal%2026%20Jan%2018.doc?dl=0>

By way of summary, Hunter was born in Kingseat on 28 November 1891.

He attended Halbeath School (the isolated building just north of the level crossing on the road from Halbeath to Kingseat). At the time of the war, he lived in Forth Street, Dunfermline. He later moved to Haig Crescent, Dunfermline, where he lived until his death in February 1965.

His happens to be the 500th VC awarded during WW1. It was extremely unusual for a soldier who was not a commissioned officer to be awarded the VC otherwise than as posthumously. Again quite exceptionally, General Haig mentioned Hunter's actions in one of his daily communiques.

Research was made more difficult by the fact that MI7 (the ministry responsible for propaganda and PR during WW1) ordered that all records of Hunter's, and many other, actions be destroyed. This is referred to at page 12 of my paper.

There was great public interest in the Seven Heroes of Moeuvres at the time. A ceremony to mark his action was held at the Co-operative Hall in Dunfermline in December 1918 (pages 53-63). He received his VC from King George V at Buckingham Palace on 16 November 1918 - just five days after the war ended.

Just after the war, Jacob Epstein was commissioned to sculpt a bust of "the typical Scottish soldier". He used Hunter as his model.

In the 1960's, Hunter was planning to sell his medal as he needed funds to purchase a car to replace his existing one. A motor dealer in the south east of England heard about this and donated a car to him. In return, he left his medal to the regimental museum in his will.

My father was one of Hunter's four sons (he also had two daughters). Davie Hunter, who was involved for many years with the football club's under-15s, is my cousin and another grandson of Hunter.

Research Sources

There is a tendency these days to assume that everything can be found on the internet, but I soon discovered that that is not the case. I did source some material by simply putting Hunter's name and "Seven Heroes of Moeuvres" into various search engines.

The Dunfermline Press office kindly gave me access to their archives, which are the actual newspapers of the time as they have yet to be digitised or put on microfilm there.

Dunfermline Library has the Dunfermline Press, the Dunfermline Journal and a few other local newspapers on microfiche and that source is available in the Library Reading Room.

There is also the online resource - The British Newspaper Archive - which is progressively digitising a huge range of British newspapers. I had to pay to access that site, but perhaps schools have their own arrangements. Perhaps schools are also aware of possible sources that I have not considered.

The village of Moeuvres is really quite small, but the Adjutant to the Mayor there did some research into French press coverage.

Ian Hunter, January 2018