

Bard Gun.

The sandstone cliffs of the Bard are the southernmost point of Bressay. In April 1918, an enormous Great War naval gun was installed here, defending the southern approaches to Lerwick harbour. It took 116 marines to winch it up the cliffs. It was never fired in anger but, during training exercises, the blasts could be heard in Cunningsburgh! A telephone line was run between the Bressay Post Office and the Bard, via the Ward Hill. The gun and ammunition bunker is still in place, over 100 years later!

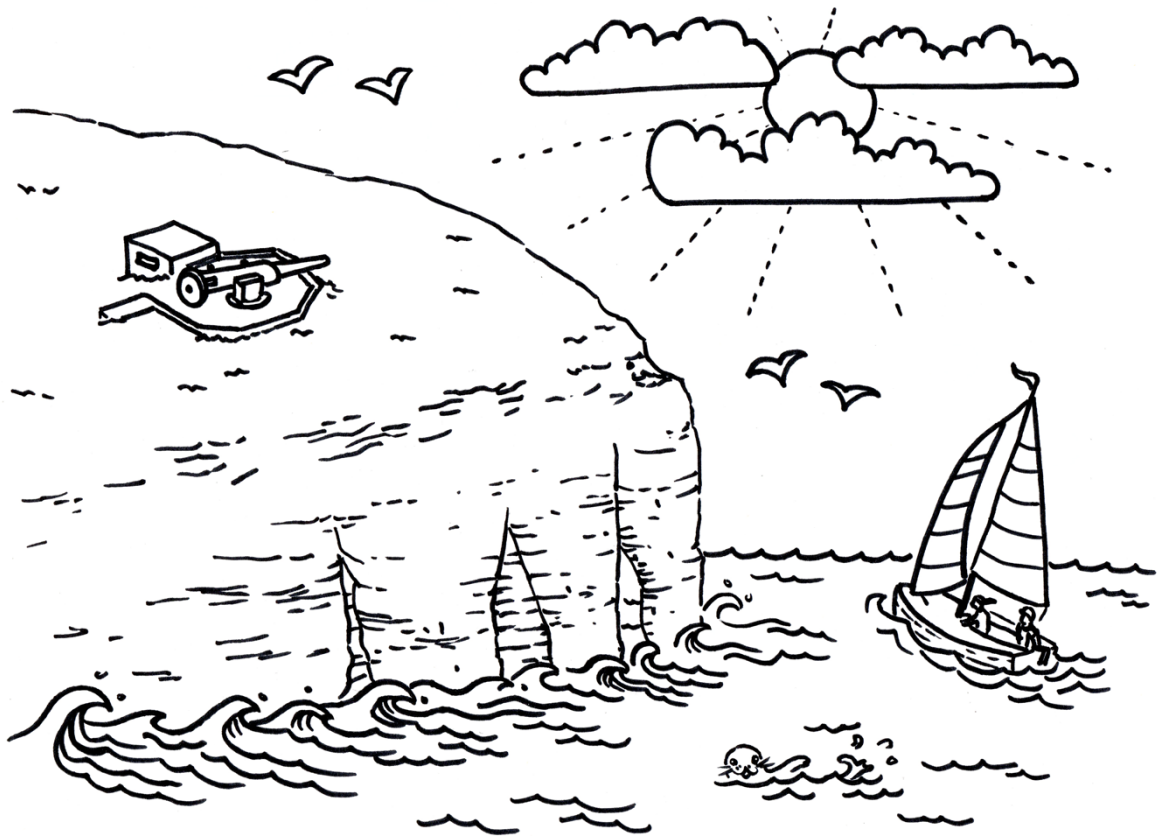
There are other Great War guns on Shetland on the uninhabited island of Vementry (protecting the deep water naval anchorage at Swarbacks Minn) but also at Aith in Bressay where a gun similar to the one at the Bard looks out to the north towards Nesting and Whalsay. The gun at Aith was hauled ashore at Aithsvoe and then up the hill and into position!

Between the Bard and the Lighthouse is the settlement of the Veng (which is the Old Norse word for meadow). This interesting homestead was first recoded in a document of 1732 but is probably much older. It was the home in 1808 to Jeemie Lamb and his family and Jeemie famously escaped the clutches of the Press Gang by jumping over the cliffs and onto a hidden ledge where he survived. Jeemie Lamb later moved to Grimsetter where his family lived until 1892.



Questions.

1. When was the gun erected at the Bard?
2. How many marines did it take to lift the gun into position?
3. Where are there other Great War guns on Shetland?
4. What does 'Veng' mean in Okd Norse?
5. Who famously jumped over the cliffs at the Veng to escape the Press Gang?



Colour me in - The Bard, Bressay.

