

*A VIRTUAL MUSEUM BY AYESHA CONTEH, 8S*

# The First World war.

*All the facts and stories of the harrowing, long  
four year war.*



# About the war - myths and truth.

**The First World War broke out in August 1914, killing over 9 million people and injuring over 21 million during 21 battles across the world. Fighting finally ceased on 11th November 1918 and the date has since been commemorated as Remembrance Day, in recognition of the scale of human lives lost in the conflict.**

A popular thought about the war is that women hardly contributed and that the war was fought and experienced by men,

***But The truth is surprisingly far from that.***

Yes, Women did not fight in the armed forces of most nations in WW1, but there were lots of women in a range of roles including auxiliary roles in the army as well as traditional nursing roles. Some women were killed, some saw the trenches first-hand, and **all** of their roles were crucial to the war effort.







# FLORA SANDES

Officer of Royal Serbian Army, WW1.

Born on January 22 1876, Flora Sandes was a British woman who served as an officer of the Royal Serbian Army and was the only British woman officially to serve as a soldier in WWI. She started off as a St. John Ambulance volunteer, and then travelled to the Kingdom of Serbia, where she was welcomed and went on to enroll in the Serbian army. Flora recalled how she "naturally drifted, in successive stages, from a nurse into a soldier. The soldiers seem to have taken it for granted that anyone who could ride and shoot, and I could do both, would be a soldier, in such a crisis."



# Where was WW1 fought?

When people remember the First World War in Britain today, they usually pay respects by visiting local war memorials or visiting the graves of family members who were involved. If we picture someone involved in the war, we are likely to think of someone young, male and British, however, there were many more races and Ethnicities involved.



# Did you know?

That ***four million*** non white people from different parts of the world were recruited into the British, French, German and American armies, along with 100,000 Chinese labourers that helped during the war too!

However not all races were treated equally, Africans in the war were forced to carry equipment food and ammunition. They were overworked , underfed and 20% of them died. The British knew that their treatment of the Africans wasn't fair but knew it wouldn't become a scandal as they weren't British.

# Alhaji Grunshi

***FIRST SOLDIER IN BRITISH  
SERVICE TO FIRE A SHOT IN WW1.***

When Britain went to war in 1914, the first shot was fired not in Europe but in the German colony of Togoland in West Africa.

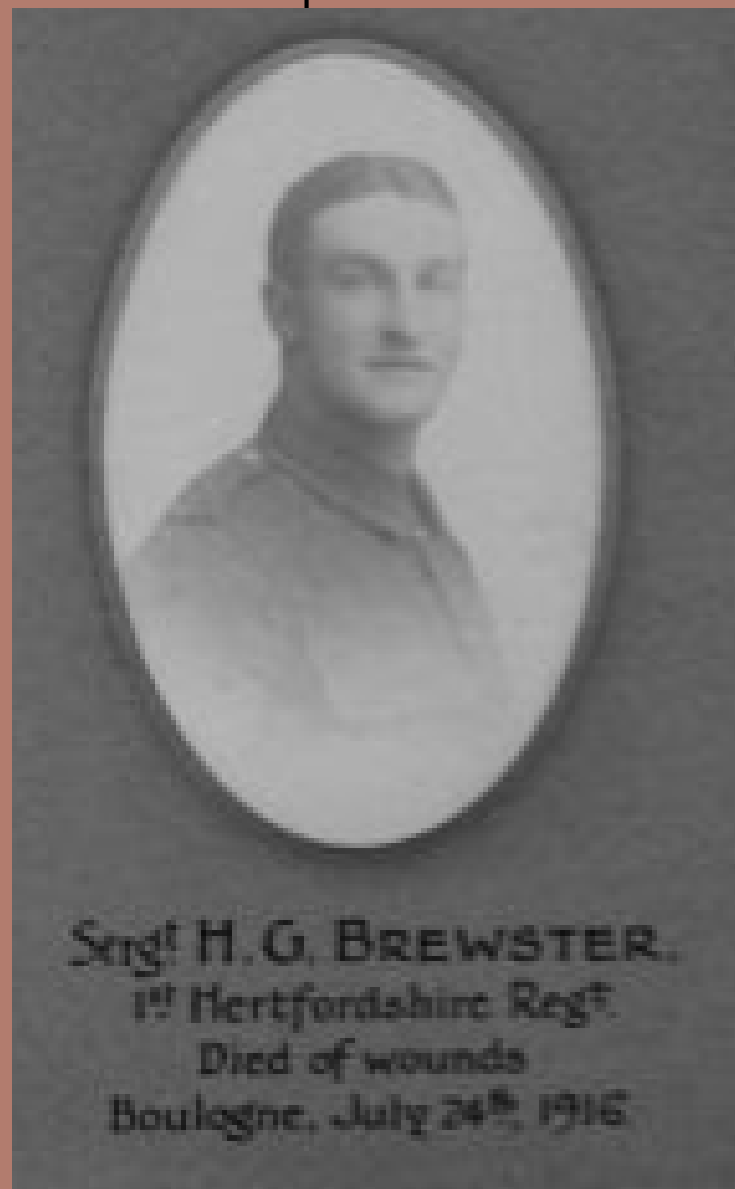
Born in 1897 in Freetown, Lance Corporal Alhaji Grunshi, of the Gold Coast Regiment was the soldier who fired the gun. The action was important strategically because it was aimed at capturing and neutralising a radio station that sent messages to and from German colonies and forces around the world.

Alhaji Grunshi's war continued in East Africa, where the Great War did not end until 25 November 1918, when the German commander finally surrendered 14 days after the Armistice. Grunshi's war had, indeed, been long.



# Closer to Home - Soldiers of Hertfordshire.

There were hundreds of soldiers that served in the war that came from Hertford and Ware, for example :



## HERBERT GEORGE BREWSTER 1895-1916

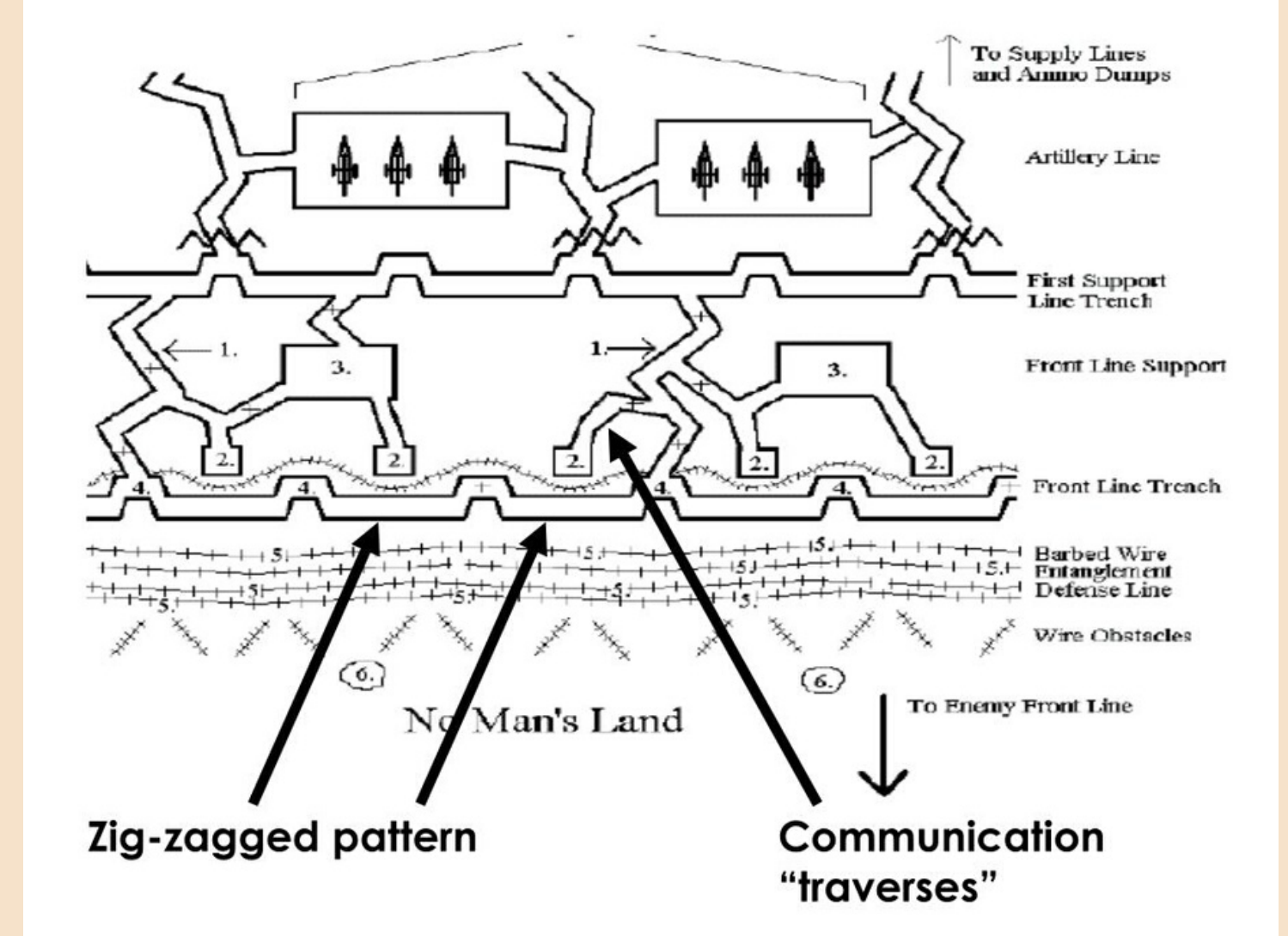
Herbert Brewster lived at 62, Fore Street, Hertford and attended Hertford Grammar School from 1906-10.. He previously attended Miss Morris's Private School, in Ware Road, Hertford. He left school to become a fishmonger and then went on to be a Sergeant in the 1st Hertfordshire Regiment, Service number 1718. Herbert died of wounds on active service at the Somme, France, on the 24th July 1916, aged 21.



# Conditions in trenches.

## Medical treatment for soldiers

The image of soldiers in trenches is probably the image most associated with the First World War. Trenches were a key feature of the war on the Western Front, where the majority of British troops fought, and were also used on other fronts but not so extensively everywhere across the world.



This aerial view of a typical trench system shows how little time British soldiers spent in the firing line. There were many parts of the trench system that helped a soldier survive.

**Firing Trench** - A firing trench is a 7 foot deep ditch at the front of all the trenches that gave cover for the most vulnerable soldiers. It was dug in clever winding paths to minimise damage, and only a small area would be damaged if it was attacked by the opposition.

**Support Trench** - This was dug up to 500 yards behind the firing trench, and was a valuable second line of defence.

**Reserve Trench** - This was dug several hundred yards behind the support trench, stored supplies and had more space for soldiers on the way to the front.

**Communication Trenches** - Communication Trenches would connect the entire network of trenches, and enabled soldiers to travel quickly, keeping the army on the move.



# 100 days offensive & End of the war.

In the early summer of 1918 the German advance had ground to a halt. Allied commanders began making preparations for a huge counter attack with the aim of driving back German forces

The Hundred Days Offensive is the name for the attack made by the Allies all along the Western Front starting in August 1918 with the Battle of Amiens. The Hundred Days reversed the German gains of earlier in the year and led to the defeat of the German Army and the end of the war in November 1918.



In early October 1918 Germany realised that it could no longer continue fighting the war. The Hundred Days Offensive had been a crushing defeat for Germany. The German government approached the United States and asked for peace. After weeks of discussion, it was agreed that fighting would cease at 11am on 11th November 1918, bringing an end to over four years of war.