



THE FIRST WORLD WAR

A virtual museum by
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Welcome to a museum of the First World War

I look forward to taking you through my museum and sharing with you, things you may not have known about the First World War, also known as The Great War.

The First World War was both brutal and devastating to many countries across the globe. They fought from trenches, on land and at sea.

Do you know how the Great War started?

The Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was shot by Serbian terrorists so Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, which angered Russia. Russia mobilized their army, which alarmed Germany. On the 3rd August 1914, Germany invaded France through Belgium

So... it was Austria-Hungary who started this war..



My Great Grandad...



This is one of three medals that my great grandad received after the war.

Edward Thomas Cann
Born: 7th January 1895-1967
Served as a Royal Naval Volunteer
Service Number: Z/2178

Battle: The Battle of Bellevue Ridge along with the Canadians to the front. An article was published in The Daily Telegraph on 29th October 1917, giving a full account of the battle

He survived the war but apparently was never quite the same, which he blamed on the gas used in the trenches

Popular Misconceptions...

- The war was somewhere in France.

This is False! Yes, some of the war took place in The Western Front (France and Belgium) but there were also 6 other places. The Eastern Front (Germany and Austria), The Italian Front (Italy), The Middle East (Egypt), The Dardanelles (Gallipoli) and the Balkans, Africa (Togo, Cameroon) and in the War at Sea.

- It was the bloodiest battle so far.

In the UK 11.5% of men that went to war were killed (700,000 out of 6 million)

- It was better to be posh than poor.

17% of officers were killed compared to 12% of British Army ordinary soldiers



Trenches...



We think soldiers spent all their time in the trenches, however that is not true. The British army rotated men in and out, continuously. Between battles, a unit spent approx 10 days a month in the trench system and of those not usually more than 3 days right up on the front line. It was not unusual to be out of the line for a month. Over half their time was spent behind the line, receiving treatment, training and enjoying relaxation.

Food and hygiene...



Every soldier was provided with a hygiene pack, it included things like a tooth brush shaving cream etc. The soldiers were told that you have to shave every day but you had to have a moustache. Soldiers were required a buddy, and they had to look after each others feet and make sure they were not rotting! The soldiers were fed well and most put on 10kg in weight. The soldiers ate tinned beef and jam. The Brits had more food, 4500 calories a day but the Germans had 3500 calories but they were given lots of alcohol

Women's role...



50,000 women volunteered to take on some of the roles behind the lines, to free up more men to fight. 81 of these women were killed during World War One. Although lots of women were nurses they were also ambulance drivers, did the cooking, did the cleaning and ran errands. At home, 1 million women in Britain were carrying out jobs that were previously done by men, eg window cleaners and even dentists.

How it ended...

World War One ended at 11am on 11th November 1918. This is now known as Armistice Day. We wear poppies around this time to remember those who lost their lives in the war. The reason poppies are used is because they are the flowers that grew on the battlefields after World War One ended. Many former soldiers suffered from shell shock, it was difficult for them to forget the war and their lives were never the same again.

