



# THE FIRST WORLD WAR

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

- The First World War or The Great War broke out in August 1914 and finally finished after 4 years on 11th of November 1918. This date is now called Remembrance Day, to remember the lives that were lost during this war.
- WW1 was fought primarily in Europe and the Middle East between a total of 32 countries. It was described as "the war to end all wars".
- The reason that WW1 started was the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, the archduke of Austria-Hungary. His death at the hands of Gavrilo Princip, a Serbian nationalist, propelled the major European military powers towards war.
- The war extended and changed these two sides. Germany and its allies were known as the Central Powers: Germany and Austria-Hungary, later joined by the Ottoman Empire (Turkey plus the Middle East) and Bulgaria. The opposing side was known as the Allies: Serbia, Russia, France and its Empire, Belgium, Montenegro and Britain and its Empire, Canada and Australia.
- The Allies finally won in 1918 after Germany surrendered and signed an armistice agreement.
- 17 million brave soldiers died.





# Myths



It is common to mistake fiction from reality, especially if it is about something that has happened over 100 years ago. People believed that at that point, WW1 was the bloodiest war in history, which was incorrect, in the Tai Ping Rebellion 13 million more people died. People also believed that it was better to be posh than to be poor. This is also incorrect, because, the posh people tended to be higher ranks so, they were sent first into the firing line. 5/100 more posh people died, that's about 3.3 million more! Soldiers did not spend all their lives in trenches, otherwise they'd all be dead. My grandmother told me three myths, the first one is, this story: One man died and his friend took his boots as his own were wet, then he died. Another man did the same, and he died as well. These were called the unlucky boots. There was also one about a giant rat that stares you in the eyes and it means you were the next to die. These are all just myths!

# Recruiting



A lot of people believed that the war would be over by Christmas but Lord Kitchener knew that the war would last for a lot longer and that they needed more men, at least 3 million. The response was overwhelming, volunteers came from everywhere and all ranks of society. Around 30,000 men enlisted per day. Men who enlisted together, served together.





# Medical treatment and Care for soldiers



The war had an effect on the physical and mental health of the soldiers. During WW1 the most common injuries found on the battlefield were gunshot wounds and chemical gas wounds. They needed to be taken to a hospital but the journeys were quite long and sometimes the soldiers didn't make it. A lot of medical techniques they use now were developed back then. The term 'shell shock' was used to refer to the psychological effect of the war on soldiers. There were a lot of different symptoms that came with shell shock. Sometimes, if it was getting really bad and the soldier was literally out of his mind, they had to be shot.



# Conditions in trenches



Trenches were a key part of WW1. They were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived. They were very muddy because of the rain and the toilets overflowed most of the time so they were very uncomfortable. The conditions in the trenches led to some medical problems, such as trench foot. Trench foot is when the soldiers feet become moldy because they are always wet. The middle was called No Man's Land, which soldiers crossed to attack the other side



# My Family



I have a few family members that took part in WW1;

**Joseph Fenn** (left) who was my Great grandmother's uncle who died at age 25 in 1916,

**Thomas Sankey** (right) who was my other Great grandmother's uncle who died in 1918 (his age is unknown),

**Edgar Buckley** who was my other Great grandmother's uncle who died at age 19 in 1916,

**Dennis Gardiner** my G-G grandad and he survived the war and

**Henry Fenn** my other G-G grandad who also survived the war. I will say a little about them on the next slide...



# My Family

**Joseph** and **Henry**, who were brothers, were both in the Manchester Regiment. Joseph's body was never found but his name is on Thiepval Memorial, France.

**Thomas Sankey** was in the Lancashire Fusiliers and he was killed over a month before the war was over. He was buried at Trescault, France.

**Edgar Buckley** was in the Royal Lancaster Regiment. He was buried at Etaples Military Cemetery, France.

**Dennis Gardiner** was in the army cyclist corps. He was wounded but he survived.

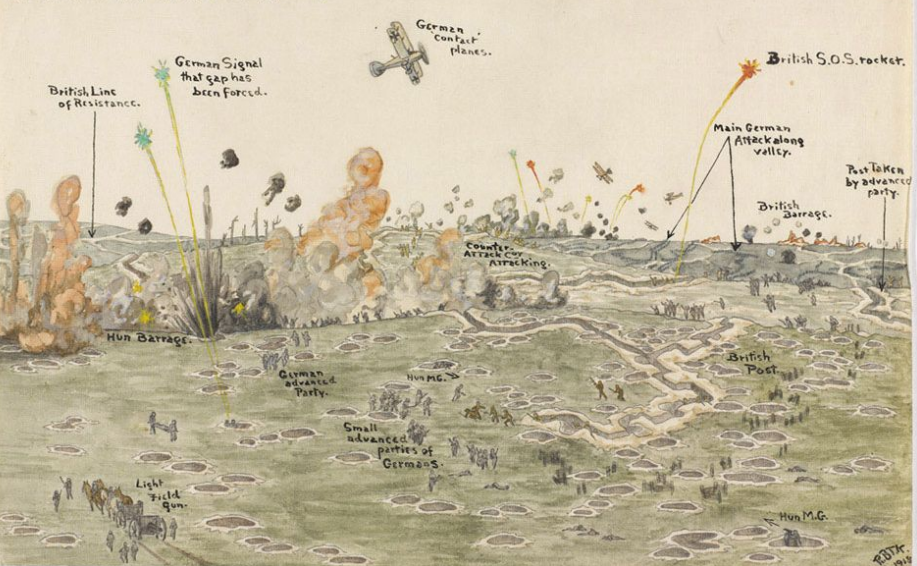




# Turning point in WW1



ATTACK BY INFILTRATION (GERMAN)



I think that the Hundred Days Offensive was the turning point in WW1 because it's when the Allies started learning how to combine the use of infantry, artillery, tanks and aircraft in a coordinated attack. None of these things were new, but they had never been used together so well. They used over 2,000 guns, 450 tanks and 1,900 aeroplanes. The attack was the first time that the Allies had succeeded in breaking through the German lines. The Germans had over 75,000 casualties. By 1918, the Germans were suffering because they were short on food and were in a desperate situation. In September British, American and Australian troops broke through one of the most heavily defended sections of the German line. Earlier attacks, like the Battle of the Somme had shown the potential of working closely together, but the Hundred Days brought much better cooperation. The Germans were tired and running low on soldiers and this is why I think the War came to an end.