



THE FIRST WORLD WAR

A virtual museum by
Sofia Henderson



Welcome to a World War 1 museum

This virtual museum will tell you lots of different facts about world war 1 but before we start here is some basic knowledge about the war. The First world war began on the 28th July 1914 and ended on the 11th November 1918. The war was between the Allied Powers (uk, France, usa and other parts of the commonwealth) and the central powers (Germany, The ottoman Empire and Austria- Hungary). The war lasted for 4 years 3 months and 1 week. Some of the things you will learn about in this museum is how they looked after wounded soldiers, what it was like in the trenches, what women did in the war and some of the less known soldiers in the war.

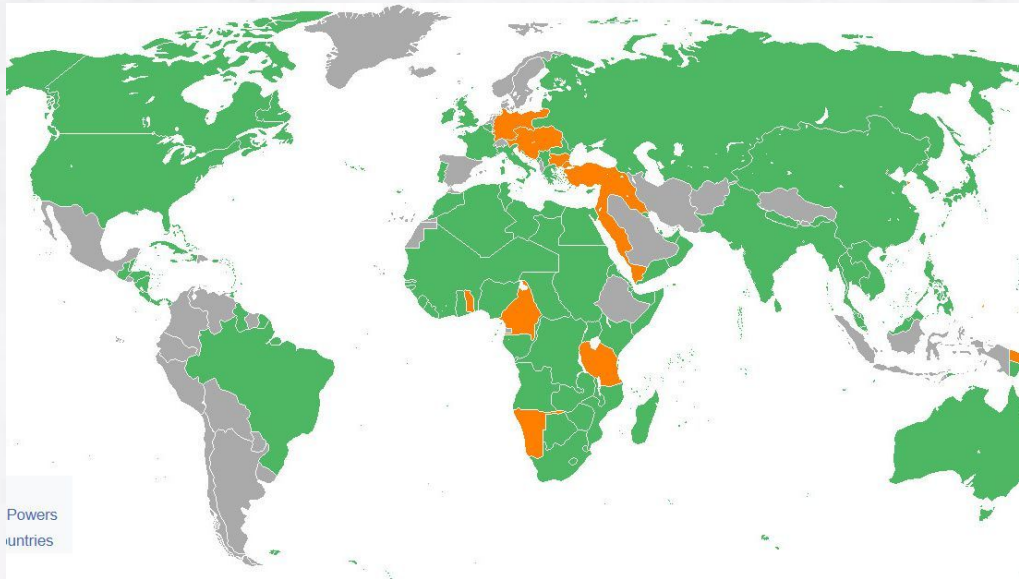


Main countries in combat

Allied powers

Central powers

Neutral countries

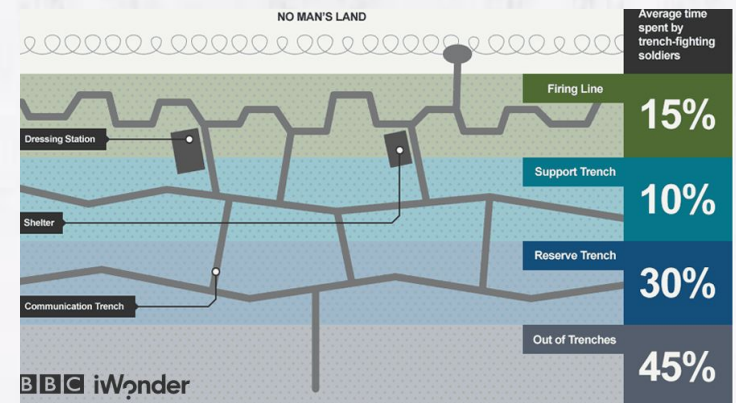


The main countries fighting were the UK, Germany, France, Russia, Austria-Hungary. Italy, Ottoman empire and the usa

The main locations where fighting occurred were France, Tannenberg, Italy, Ottoman empire, Togoland, Cameroon, Austria-Hungary, Angola, German east africa and great britain

Trenches

There is a myth that soldiers lived in the trenches for years on end, this is incorrect because in reality only 15% of a soldier's times was spent in the firing line and 45% was spent outside the trenches. Trenches were built to protect soldiers as in lots of places where they were fighting (eg. the western front) it was only fields and there was no place to hide. As the trench conditions were wet and muddy, each day the soldiers would have to take off their boots, thoroughly dry their feet and put fresh socks on. They would be put into pairs and would be responsible for the other person's feet. They had to do this to stop trench foot occurring.



Medical Treatment



How were soldiers cared for?

Stretcher bearers would pick them up and carry them to field hospitals, if they had a head or neck injury they would be given an x-ray. Silk was kept sterile in little glass vials for stitching up wounds. There was an idea that for soldiers to fully recover they had to be taken away from all of the chaos and be in peace and quiet.

Shell shock?

Being under heavy fire from artillery shells caused a mental illness known as shell shock. There were many different symptoms of shell shock ranging from headaches, nightmares, hallucinations, distressing, intrusive memories, to paralysis and amnesia



Women in the war



Women did lots of different things during the war. Some were nurses who helped transport wounded soldiers to hospitals and nursed them, and some set up first aid posts behind the front line like Elsie Knocker did. Others were in the WAAC (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps) where they helped behind the lines which meant more men were able to go and fight. There were cigarette cards made which celebrated the variety of the women's work that they were doing back home. Even though they were doing the same work as men they were still being paid less, this was justified by a male boss who said tea and cakes cost less than steak and a beer.

Foreign soldiers in the war



When you think of The First World War the first thing that probably comes to your mind is British soldiers fighting in trenches, but there are lots of other people who fought in World War 1 who people may not remember. There were around 4 million non-white men who fought, 1.5 million of them were from India. The first Gunshot of WW1 was actually shot by an African Soldier in Togoland, Alhaji Grunshi, his gunshot was strategically aimed at capturing, Kamina, a German radio station that relayed messages to and from german colonies all over the world. All of these soldiers should be remembered as much as the others because due to racial discrimination all of these soldiers were seen as naturally more aggressive so were put on the front line.

My family in the war

My great-grandfather Patrick Hickey was a lieutenant in World War 1. He fought in the Seventh Durham Light Infantry and joined the army when he was 22. During the war he was injured in the head and then sent back to recover in England, he then returned later on and was injured during the Battle of the Somme. Before the war started he was a Medical student at Durham University and in 1917 he was sent home from the war to continue his studies. After the war he became a doctor and in World War 2 he also served in the medical corps. He survived both World Wars and lived until 1982 when he was 89



Turning points of the war

There were many battles during the First World War that are seen as turning points. Some of those battles are:

The Battle Of the Somme, this battle is seen as a turning point because it showed what techniques worked and would be useful in later battles, for example the found that they could gain lots by planning attacks with their allies and that tanks could have lots of potentials

The Ludendorff Offensive, this attack is seen as a turning point because as this attack tired out all of the Germans it meant that it was easier for the Allies to attack, as the Germans were lacking supplies and tired of fighting. It also showed the allies what tactics worked (for example: attacking in small groups called 'storm troopers') so that they could make them even more powerful.

The Hundred Day Offensive, this campaign is seen as a turning point as it was counter attacking the Ludendorff Offensive. This campaign drove back the german forces meaning the Allies were able to break through their lines and take back what they had lost. This plan led to the defeat of the German army and the end of the World War.





Thank you for coming to my virtual museum i hope you have learnt lots of different things about the war and now have a deeper understanding of what it was like. The last story I want to tell you about is the christmas truce in 1914, the myth is that in some parts of the western front the Germans and allies stopped fighting and played a football match. This is partly true as in some places they did stop fighting but we don't know if they actually played football, what we do know is that they traded gifts, sung carols and took photographs. Unfortunately the High Commands on both sides tried to prevent any further truces happening on that scale again

