



The First World War

*GLOBAL OR LOCAL
IT STILL HAPPENED*

WELCOME TO A MUSEUM OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

GLOBAL OR LOCAL IT STILL HAPPENED

The war was mainly fought in Europe but it also extended to Africa and Asia as well.

The main combat countries were UK, France, Russia, Italy, USA, Romania and Japan against Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and The Ottoman Empire.

The war included 100 modern nations.

4 million non white people were recruited into the British, French, Germany and American Armies. India contributed the most by sending 1 million people overseas.

Over 70 million men mobilised.

The war took place on every continent except Antarctica.



OFFICERS



There is a popular myth that officers did not much to help or support their men but that is not strictly true. Junior officers led their men into battle but more senior officers did work behind the lines helping organise the movement of the many soldiers.

4270 British officers were killed in the first two months of the war so Indian officers were brought in to help.

Officers were traditionally recruited from more upper and middle class backgrounds, went to public schools like Eton and Harrow or universities like Oxford and Cambridge. Eton alone lost 1000 former pupils.

The average life expectancy for a junior officers was 6 weeks while the average soldier was 3 months. This helps support the fact that the deadliest role was junior officer.

WALTER TULL

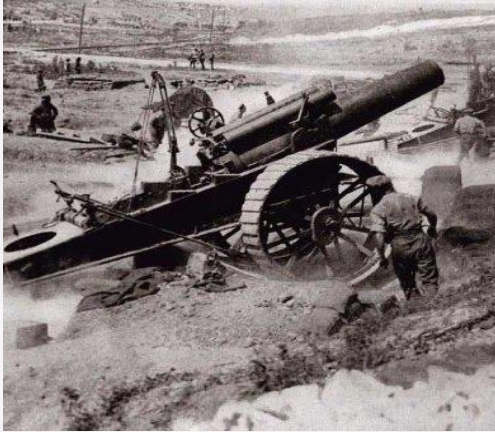


Walter Tull was the first black officer in the army. He was only promoted to officer because the Army relaxed its rules during the First World War which had banned the promotion of black soldiers to officer status.

Before he joined the army he was a professional footballer for Tottenham Hotspur, his Dad was a carpenter from Barbados which is where his Grandmother had sadly been a slave.

Walter was killed in 1918 in the battle of Arras. His soldiers cared a lot for him and tried to recover his body but couldn't. He is remembered as missing on the Arras Memorial.

WEAPONS



Rifles were the most used weapon, they were fired rapidly and accurately to far distances by well trained soldiers. A pointed blade called a bayonet could be attached to the rifle for close fighting.

Machine guns and poisonous chemicals gas were new to the range of fighting equipment.

Machine guns could fire 450-600 bullets a minute which was very effective throughout the course of WWI.

Chlorine gas was first used by the Germans in The 2nd Battle of Ypres to wipe out French and Canadian troops in the trenches (but they didn't win the battle).

Artillery weapons were the most deadly, they were big guns that were fired behind the soldiers to the enemy lines. They were used to destroy enemy defences. Artillery weapons were responsible for 50%-75% of the casualties.



MEDICAL TREATMENT AND CARE FOR SOLDIERS



Casualty stations were set up near the battlefields so injured and sick soldiers could be treated as quick as possible so they could go back to fighting as soon as possible.

Female volunteers worked as nurses and drove ambulances, most of them worked very long days to care for the wounded.

The Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) was created to care for British troops. Their job was to get treatment to injured soldiers as quickly as possible.



The War meant lots was learned about medicine. Antiseptics were developed to clean wounds and the ability to store blood was discovered to be able to give blood transfusions. This saved the lives of many injured soldiers. Lots was learned about prosthetics including artificial legs and facial features.

STRETCHER BEARER (RAMC)



***MY GREAT GREAT GRANDFATHER JAMES
HENRY COLLINSON (HARRY).
PHOTO TAKEN IN EGYPT IN 1918.***

Harry Collinson served as a Stretcher Bearer in the RAMC, but not in France. He was in Gallipoli, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Palestine and then Egypt. He was never wounded but he must have seen some awful sights and been in a lot of danger since the Stretcher Bearers had to go out after a battle and collect anybody wounded, who was still alive, and bring them to the Forward Dressing Stations.

He was discharged from the army on 5th April 1919 and transferred to back to the Territorial Army where he had trained before the war. He remained in the rank of Private throughout his time in the army.

After he was discharged from the army he went back to teaching and married Mary Alice Helme in 1920. He was Assistant Headmaster at Cambridge Street School in Barrow-in-Furness. Later he became Head of the school at Seal, near Sevenoaks in Kent and he died there in 1938.

His medals were general Service Medals: 1915 Star Medal; British War Medal; Victory Medal

END OF MY MUSEUM

89% of British soldiers survived the war.

There are Commonwealth war graves in 96 different countries.

The average days spent in the trenches per month was 10.

The average days spent in the frontline trenches per month was 3.

27.78% of the world's population died (up to 1.25 million people).

