



## How did WW1 start?



- Before World War 1 started, a series of defense alliances existed between many European countries. If one country declared war against another, other countries would be forced, by treaty, to enter the conflict.
- France, Britain and Ireland, and Russia formed an alliance known as the Triple Entente. Germany was allied with Austria-Hungry. They were known as the Central Powers.
- When Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated in Sarajevo on 28th June 1914, it triggered a chain of events that resulted in World War 1.
- Following the assassination, Austria-Hungary, who blamed Serbia for the death of the Archduke, threatened war unless they agreed to a set of harsh demands. Germany sided with Austria-Hungary, and Russia backed Serbia. Europe was on the brink of war.
- On 28th July, one month after the Archduke's assassination, Austria-Hungary (supported by Germany) declared war on Serbia. On 1st August, Germany declared war on Russia, and on 3rd August Germany declared war on France.
- On 4th August, German troops marched on France, taking a route through Belgium. Britain had agreed to guarantee Belgium's neutrality, and immediately declared war on Germany.
- British and German forces clashed on 23rd August at the Battle of Mons, which took place in Belgium. This was the first battle between the British and the Germans on the Western Front.

#### World War I Timeline

Archduke Ferdinand assassinated, war declared Battle of Mons

First Canadian troops to U.K. for training First Battle of Ypres

First Canadians in France Second Battle of Ypres Actions at Festubert and Givenchy

Allied withdrawal from Gallipoli Beginning of Battle of Verdun Battle of Jutland

Battle of Mount Sorrel Battle of the Somme Italy declares war on Germany

Germany begins unrestricted submarine warfare United States declares war on Germany

Battle of Arras, Battle of the Scarpe Third Battle of Ypres Second Battle of Verdun

Russia signs armistice with Germany US President Wilson announces Fourteen Point German offensives at the Somme, Ypres German offensive on the Aisne

Second Battle of the Marne Battle of Amiens Second Battles of the Somme and of Arras Final allied offensive on the Western Front Bulgaria, Austria & Germany sign armistice.



# The trenches

 Trenches were a key feature on the western front, It is where majority of British troupes fought. There was trenches on other fronts but not so extensively everywhere. In the middle-east and Africa trenches were not a big feature, they weren't that big a feature even on the eastern front where Russia fought Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Firing Trench This 7-foot-deep ditch at the front of the system provided cover for the most exposed troops. Dug in clever 'zigzag' sections to minimize damage, only a small area would be affected if it was attacked by enemy forces or hit by a shell.

**Support Trench** Dug 200 to 500 yards behind the main firing trench, the support trench was a valuable second line of defense.

Reserve Trench Further back, several hundred yards behind the support trench, the reserve trenches stored supplies and offered a little more comfort to troops en route to the front.

Communication Trenches Connecting the entire network, a lattice of communication trenches enabled soldiers to travel quickly; keeping the army, its supplies, its reinforcements – and its casualties – on the move.

## Weapons in WW1



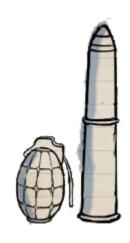
Rifles were the main weapon of
First World War soldiers. They
could be fired rapidly and
accurately over long distances
by well-trained soldiers.
A pointed blade called a bayonet
could be attached to the rifle for
close fighting.



This is an artillery. Artillery's were the big guns that fired large explosive shells over large distances. They were positioned behind soldiers and fired over to the enemy lines. The artillery caused over 50% of the wars casualties.



This picture shows a machine gun. At that time a they were very recent, and also very deadly. They could shoot around 450-600 bullets a minute, which could be swept across the battle field. They were very effective but weren't the deadliest weapon.



They also used grenades, pistols, flame-throwers, poison gas and later tanks.

Planes were used for reconnaissance (seeing where the enemy was) but by the end of the war sometimes had machine guns on board. They were not used to drop bombs in the First World War.

## Global war

You have reached the global war section of my virtual museum. Here you will learn about Alhaji Grunshi's role in the war and about the main burial locations of WW1.



## Alhaji Grunshi

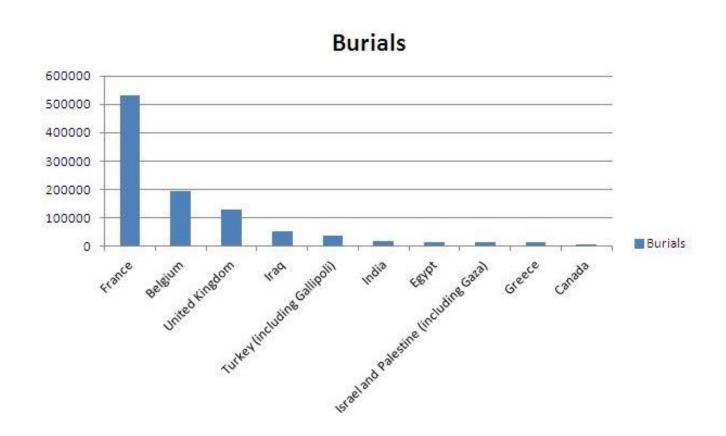
- Alhaji Grunshi fired the first shot in WW1.
- It was fired in the German colony of Togoland in West Africa.
- He served as Lance Coperall Alhaji Grunshi in the gold coast regiment.
- His war continued in East Africa, where the war didn't end until the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 1918.



This map shows the location of the German colony of Togoland.



## Where was the First World War fought?



- One thing I have noticed is that the first three countries are all in Europe meaning this must be where lots of the fighting happened
- The lowest out of the countries was Canada which was actually the only country from North America.
- I also noticed that there wasn't a single country from South America which means if they were at all a part of the war they would have been a very small part.





## hypothesis

• The soldiers were young...

most soldiers were in their 20's and 30's.

• Most of the fighting was done by the army...

yes, most of the fighting was done by the army

Most soldiers are killed in action...

most people were either killed in action or missing in action.

• Most of the fighting took place in France...

yes, the most fighting happened in France.

• The most casualties happened in 1916...

actually the year that seemed to have the most casualties was 1917

• There was a truce on Christmas day 1914...

this may be true as there was no deaths recorded on Christmas day 1914



### My family in WW1

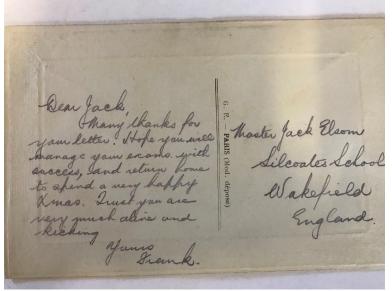
- My great grandad's cousin, Lance Corporal Frank Hewitt, served in the 7<sup>th</sup> Beds British Expeditionary Force. His service number was: 12816
- On the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website (<a href="https://www.cwgc.org/">https://www.cwgc.org/</a>), I was able to search for Frank Hewitt's war record.
- I discovered that Frank died on the first day of the **Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916.** He was only **28 years old.**
- He is buried in the Dantzig Alley British Cemetery in France and commemorated on Needingworth War Memorial in Cambridgeshire.
- Before the war, he had spent time with my grandad's family in Derby learning about the timber trade.











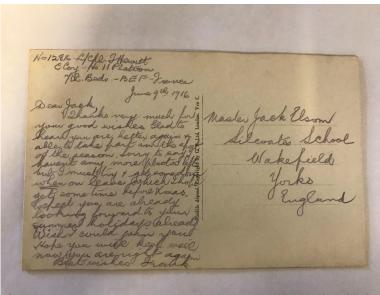
Frank used to send postcards from the war to my Great Grandad who was still at school.





He sent his last postcard on June the 9<sup>th</sup> 1916, three weeks before he died in the Battle of the Somme.

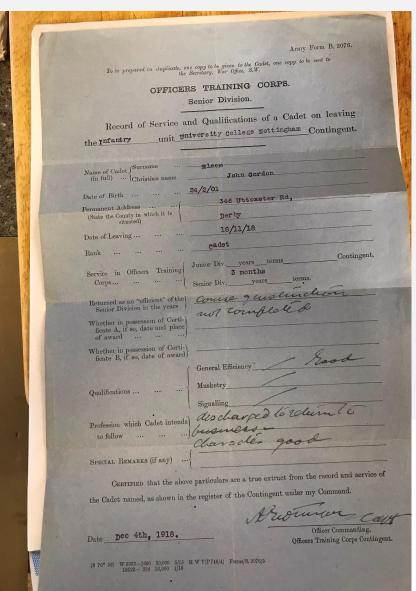












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This is my great grandad, Jack. He was training to become an officer but luckily the war ended just before he was called up.



#### Volunteers

 When the war broke out in 1914, Britain realised that they needed a bigger army very quickly. Using posters, leaflets and stirring speeches the government began a massive recruitment drive. It was very successful and in the first month half a million men signed up.over two million men had been enlisted by 1916.



## Harry Drinkwater

Harry Drinkwater joined the army in 1914 as a volunteer. He was the son of a shopkeeper in Stratford on Avon and was educated at the local grammar school. When the war broke out, he was working as a shop assistant in Banbury. He was initially told he was too short to join the army, but on his second attempt was successful in joining the Birmingham 'Pals' Battalion'. Pals Battalions were formed of men from the same area, occupation or background, encouraging men to volunteer because they would go with their friends.



### Harry's diary

Harry served on the Western Front and recorded his experienced in a diary, which survives. He wrote of difficult conditions in the trenches and high casualties, but also of moments of relief and relaxation, watching football matches and going for walks in the sunshine.

Harry was given the opportunity to train as an officer in 1917 and returned to the front line in the autumn of 1917 to lead his men in the Third Battle of Ypres. Early in 1918 he was wounded in a night-time raid on the German trenches, for which he was recommended for a gallantry medal.



## MILITARY SERVICE ACT

APPLIES TO UNMARRIED MEN WHO, ON AUGUST 15th, 1915, WERE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OVER AND WHO WILL NOT BE 41 YEARS OF AGE ON MARCH 2nd, 1916.

#### ALL MEN (NOT EXCEPTED OR EXEMPTED).

between the above ages who, on November 2nd, 1915, were Unmarried or Widowers without any Child dependent on them will, on

#### Thursday, March 2nd, 1916

BE DEEMED TO BE ENLISTED FOR THE PERIOD OF THE WAR.

They will be placed in the Reserve until Called Up in their Class.

#### MEN EXCEPTED:

SOLDIERS, including Territorials who have volunteered for Foreign Service; MEN serving in the NAVY or ROYAL MARINES;

MEN DISCHARGED from ARMY or NAVY, disabled or ill, or TIME-EXPIRED MEN;

MEN REJECTED for the ARMY since AUGUST 14th, 1915; GLERGYMEN, PRIESTS, and MINISTERS OF RELIGION:

VISITORS from the DOMINIONS.

#### MEN WHO MAY BE EXEMPTED BY LOCAL TRIBUNALS

Men more useful to the Nation in their present employments;

Men in whose case Military Service would cause serious hardship owing to exceptional financial or business obligations or domestic position;

Men who are ill or infirm;

Men who conscientiously object to combatant service. If the Tribunal thinks fit, men may, on this ground, be (a) exempted from combatant service only (not non-combatant service), or (b) exempted on condition that they are engaged in work of National importance.

Up to March 2nd, a man can apply to his Local Tribunal for a certificate of exemption. There is a Right of Appea He will not be called up until his case has been dealt with finally.

Men retain their Civil Rights until called on and are amenable to Civil Courts only.

#### DO NOT WAIT UNTIL MARCH 2nd ENLIST VOLUNTARILY NOW.

For folior particulars of the Art, planes apply the Loubet No. 10 to the assesse Post Office, Police Station, or Recenting Office.

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## Conscription

- By 1916, the high numbers of soldiers being killed and wounded meant that the need for more recruits to fight in the war very high. News of what the war was really like reached people at home and men became less enthusiastic to volunteer. So the government introduced conscription. This made it compulsory for all single men aged 18-40 to join the army, navy or airforce. Later in the same year, this was extended to married men.
- Conscription was intended to make sure that everyone in society participated equally in the war. It also meant that the government could send some volunteers back to their normal jobs, where these were important to winning the war: for example, too many coal miners and farmers had volunteered and there were not enough people to mine coal or grow crops to keep the country going.

# Conscientious objectors

- Some people objected to the war and did not want to fight. For many, this was because their religious beliefs or moral principles made them pacifists: they believed any kind of violence or war was wrong.
- These men were labelled 'conscientious objectors'. The government allowed them to be excused from conscription, but this did not make their situation easy. They had to go to a tribunal and explain their beliefs, to prove that they were not just 'cowards'. In reality, the tribunal put pressure on them to join. Members of the public also pressurised them by handing out white feathers as a symbol of cowardice to men not in uniform, to shame them into enlisting.
- There were around 16,000 conscientious objectors. Many refused to fight but were prepared to serve in alternative ways. They took on important roles as ambulance drivers, hospital workers and stretcher bearers. These were not safe roles: many went out under fire to bring in wounded men. This earned them the respect of regular soldiers, who otherwise often regarded them as 'shirkers'.
- Conscientious objectors who refused to do even these roles, or to follow orders, however, were imprisoned. They were often mistreated or poorly looked after, with inadequate food or care for their health. At least 73 died in prison or shortly after their release.

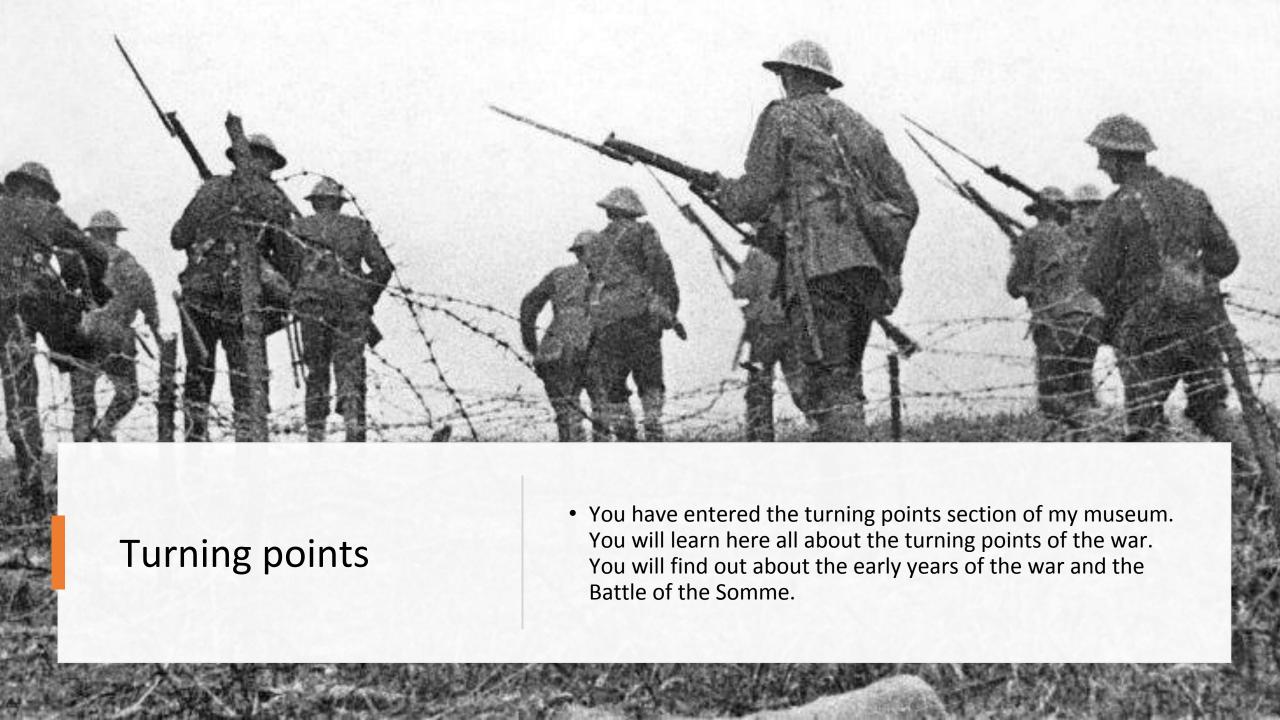


Hilda grew up in a middle-class family in Somerset. She qualified as a doctor. When war broke out, she was appalled by the violence and suffering. She volunteered to help with civilians affected by the war, and spent the war working to help French women and children who were refugees, having fled their homes where the fighting was taking place.



Laurence cadbury

Laurence Cadbury an engineer from Birmingham, and the son of George Cadbury, then head of the famous chocolate firm. He was 25 when the war broke out. He joined the Friends Ambulance Unit, which provided ambulance services to transport the wounded at the front. Laurence felt that this enabled him to save lives without contributing to the violence, although others argued that he was helping the war by freeing up other men to fight.





What happened in the early years of the war:

1914

The war started with commanders on all sides thinking the war would be over quickly. Germany had a carefully planned attack on France, the Schlieffen plan. They thought that this was going to succeed. Whereas France, Britain and Russia were all convinced the German forces would be quickly and decisively defeated. They were all proven wrong, there was no quick end to WW1!

France was invaded at the start of the war by Germany, but this quickly came to a halt when the French stopped the German advance at the Battle of the Marne where French troops were rushed to the battlefield in taxis! Trenches had been dug and fortifications made by both sides on the western front at the end of 1914. meanwhile the Russian advance had been halted in the eastern front by German and Austrian troops.



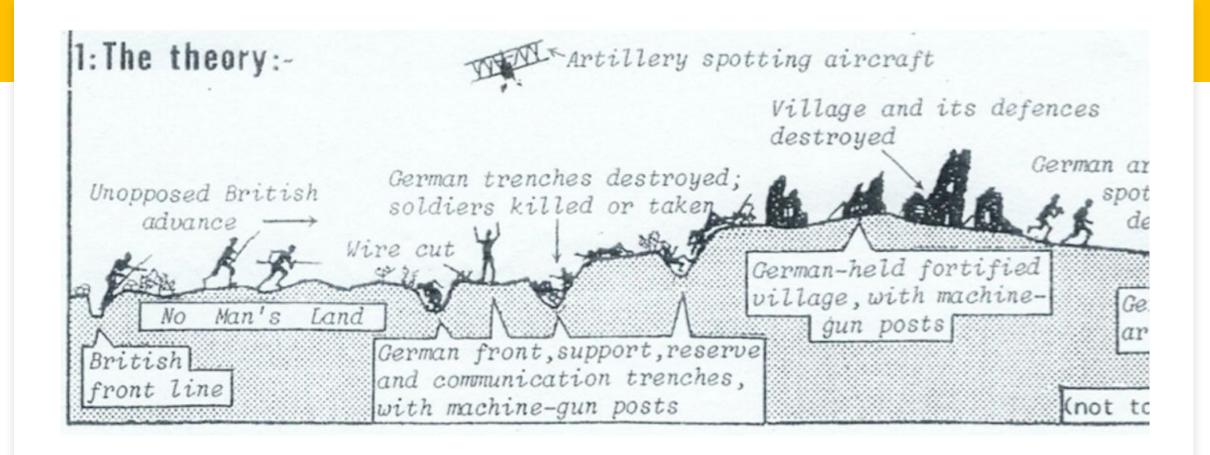
What happened in the early years of the war:

1915

- The French and British repeatably tried to break through the German lines in 1915. the big attacks in spring and autumn failed to make any ground. The picture above shows Indian troops from the Meerut and Lahore Divisions preparing to German positions at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915. Artillery, machine guns, accurate rifles and well fortified trenches made it much easier to defend ground than it did to attack.
- Clearly a different approach was needed and the first opportunity to try would come in early summer 1916. 1915 also saw the first use of gas on the battlefields of the First World War near Ypres. In the Mediterranean, Australian and New Zealand troops launched an invasion of the Ottoman Empire at Gallipoli in modern day Turkey. The Gallipoli Campaign saw some of the fiercest fighting in the war and the invasion ultimately failed. Meanwhile, on the Eastern Front, Russian forces began to retreat.

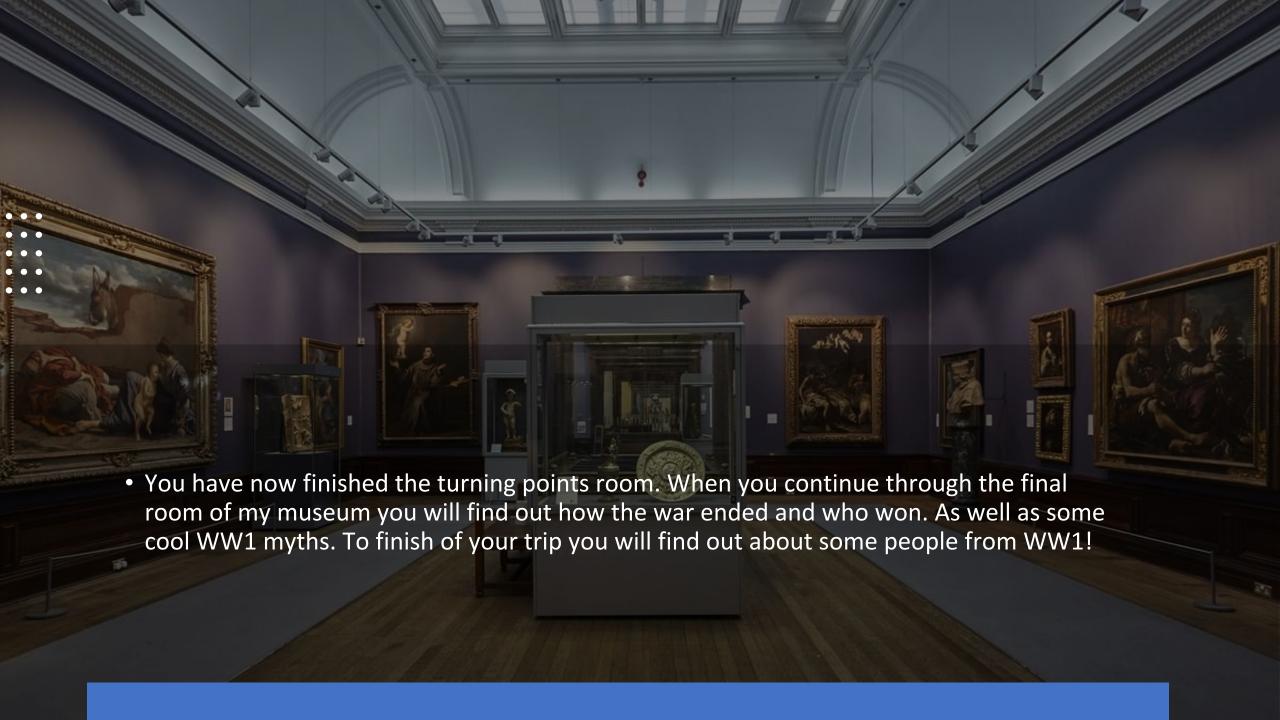
## The Battle of the Somme

- In December 1915 Britain and France decided that they would launch a joint attack in 1916 with the aim of breaking through German lines and ending the war. However, in February 1916 Germany launched a huge attack on the French at Verdun. This meant a change of plans and by early summer it was clear that the British attack near the River Somme was needed to relieve pressure on the French at Verdun.
- 1st July 1916 marked the start of the Battle of the Somme and fighting continued until November 1916. It is one of the most infamous battles of the First World War and the first battle we are going to look at that could be considered a turning point. But what happened in the battle and was it a turning point in the course of the war?



What was the plan for the battle of the Somme?

• The British army made careful preparations to attack the Germans near the River Somme in 1916. they recruited and trained many new soldiers and assembled large amounts of ammunition so that the artillery could bombard the German defenses for seven days before the attack, using over 1,700,000 shells. They hoped this would destroy the German defenses and barbed wire. Tunnels were also dug underneath important German defensive positions or forts and packed with explosives to create mines which would be exploded just before the attack. The plan was that the soldiers would then easily be able to advance across No Man's Land and capture the land held by the Germans.



### How did WW1 end? And who won?



- On 4 November, the Austro-Hungarian empire agreed to the Armistice of Villa Giusti. With its allies defeated, revolution at home, and the military no longer willing to fight, Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated on 9 November and Germany signed an armistice on 11 November 1918, effectively ending the war.
- The Allies (mainly Britain, France, US) won WW1 which happened from 1914-1919. Germany was the main loser, along with Austria Hungary, The Ottoman Empire, and the other Central Powers and also Russia, although Russia withdrew from the war early due to civil war issues at home.



# 1<sup>st</sup> myth: It was better to be rich than poor.

The privileged classes weren't protected from the slaughter

A greater proportion of public school boys were killed or injured than the working class.

Eton alone lost over 1000 pupils alone. 20% of who served because they served one of the deadliest roles on the front line, a Junior Officer.

In the Battle of the Somme and ordinary soldier could expect 3 months before becoming a casualty but a Junior Officer could expect

6 weeks



## 2<sup>nd</sup> myth: The soldiers lived in the trenches for years on end.

- Trenches were an essential feature of the first world war
- There was trenches in every front, on every terrain
- There was evem trenches dug into the ice in the alps
- Soldiers didn't live in them full-time average days spent in the trenches per month:

10

average days spent in the front line trenches per month:

3

 Behind the lines the soldiers dug trenches, played sports and some even put on plays and wrote their own newspapers.





## 3<sup>rd</sup> myth: The No-Mans Land Football Match 1914

- Little evidence that it actually happened
- However there was an unofficial truce in 1914 across large sections of the western front
- In this truce the guns stopped for a day and for some places a week
- Many did want to play football and some even tried to arrange a match but in the end the fighting resumed
- However some may have had a kick about with a make-shift ball

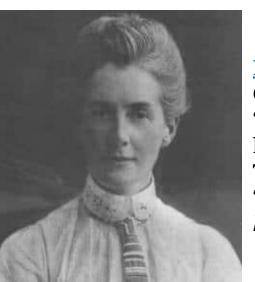


T.E. Lawrence. 'Lawrence of Arabia' (1888 – 1935) T. E. Lawrence was a British officer posted to the Middle East. He played a key role in fomenting the Arabs to revolt against the Ottoman Empire.

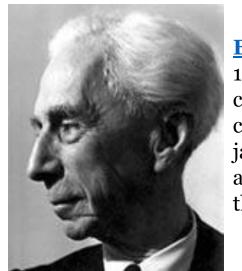


Wilfred Owen (1893 – 1918)
 Wilfred Owen was a celebrated
 war poet. He vividly described
 the horrors of trench warfare
 and the misplaced loyalties of
 patriotism. However, he still
 volunteered to return to the
 trenches and was killed in action
 – a week before the armistice of
 Nov 11, 1918.

Here are some people who are famous from WW1.



Nurse Edith Cavell. (1865-1915) Edith Cavell was a British nurse, executed for 'espionage' by the Germans for her role in helping Allied servicemen escape Belgium. The night before her execution, she said 'patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone'



Bertrand Russell (1872 – 1970) British pacifist who campaigned against conscription. He was sent to jail for six months for speaking against America's entry into the First World War.

## End of your visit!!

You have come to the end of your visit to my WW1 museum!! I hope that you have enjoyed learning all about the First World War and found it very interesting!!

