



# World war 1

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A Virtual Museum by Thiyara Dahanayake

# Global war

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- Even though some people called it the European war. World War 1 was a global war from the beginning. The conflict in Europe shows this, Germany went to war with Britain this then gets Germany's Ally Ottoman, Turkey involved. The British wanted to defend their interests in the Middle East against the Turks, so they did that by using their emperor. Men from India, Australia and New Zealand. who turned to their ally the French who brought people from their emperor. Men from North Africa and West Africa. So you can really see here that so many other countries were involved in this and it was like a long chain.
  - The main combatant countries were :  
UK, Germany, France, Australia, Italy, Russia and USA



# Global war :

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- Alhaji Grunshi was the first British soldier to fire a shot in the first world war.
- Without the 2.5 million men and women of the Empire, who, like Grunshi, served beleaguered Britain the outcomes would have been completely different.
- Grunshi has won various awards after being in the war.



# Local War :

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- 533 local people died after serving in the army.
- By local people I mean men from the towns: Widford, Watton-at-stone, Ware side, Ware, Wadesmill, Hertingforbury, Hertford Heath, Hertford, Great Amwell and Benjio
- Some may have been related to each other as they have the same last names but we do not know if they were actually



# Experience of war

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- Lots of people experienced war but not everybody in the same way. The war was different for Women and for men with religious beliefs compared to men who were actually fighting.
- Women had a wide range of roles including auxiliary roles in the army as well as more traditional nursing roles.
- Flora Sandes is an example of a women playing an auxiliary role in the army. Flora recalled "naturally drifted, in successive stages, from a nurse into a soldier. The soldiers seem to



# Experience of war

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- Mairi Chisholm was a nurse. She drove ambulances to help the men who were hurt, but sadly many died on the way to treatment so her partner Elsie Knocker put up a first aid post behind the frontline in Belgium!
- Men with religious beliefs thought any violence wasn't right. These men were called conscientious objectors. The government allowed them to be excused but they had to explain their beliefs to prove they weren't just frightened to go to war. Many took other important roles to help their country. These were not always safe roles though



# Turning points

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- In my opinion there were lots of turning points but the main ones were: The Battle of the Somme, Arrival of American troops and the Ludendorff Offensive.
- The battle of the Somme was a big turning point for the British. British commanders learnt from their mistakes and tactics improved. Tanks were used for the first time and the battle showed the potential of allied cooperation. British commanders realised that their tactics were not helping them defeat anyone so it made them use better ideas



# Turning points

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- The arrival of American troops was quite a big turning point, when they joined Britain and France were tired of war. They had been gone for ages and they were losing hope. When America came Britain and France were encouraged to carry on. The Americans helped British and French troops go on and if they didn't come then the war could have ended very differently.
- Finally I think the Ludendorff Offensive was a turning point in World War 1 as well. During





# Finally

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- The world war ended on 11th November 1918. The war went on for 4 years but finally came to an end. The allies won.



A black silhouette of a person walking on a green hill, carrying a bag or bundle. The background is a light, hazy sky.

End of

museum