

The First World War by Lola Gardner



WWI.... Why did war break out?

Historians disagree about what 'caused' the First World War, but most trace it in some degree to the growing power of Germany.

Germany had been made up of a number of separate colonies but became a united 'empire' in 1871 by defeating France in the Franco-Prussian War. This gave Germany greater strength to develop.

The 'balance of power' between the nations of Europe became unstable. This led them to form military alliances:

The Triple Alliance – Germany, Austria and Italy

The Triple Entente – France, Britain and Russia



WWI..... Why did war break out?

Key events leading up to Britain becoming involved...

28 June	The Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand was shot by Serb terrorists on a visit to inspect Austrian troops in Bosnia.
5 July	Germany promised total support for Austria-Hungary.
28 July	Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia – this angered Russia.
30 July	Russia mobilised her army – this alarmed Germany.
3 August	Germany implemented the <u>Schlieffen Plan</u> and invaded France through neutral Belgium.
4 August	Britain declared war on Germany because of an agreement with Belgium.

The Schlieffen Plan



Devised as a plan to allow Germany to win a two-front war (against France and Russia)



When WW1 first broke out, People of Britain were lead to believe that victory would be swift!

Myths of WW1 - Did you know?



Not the bloodiest war.....



Fact: 89% of British soldiers survived!



Not better to be posh than poor.....

Fact: A greater proportion of public school boys were killed or injured compared to working class boys:

The war touched everyone!

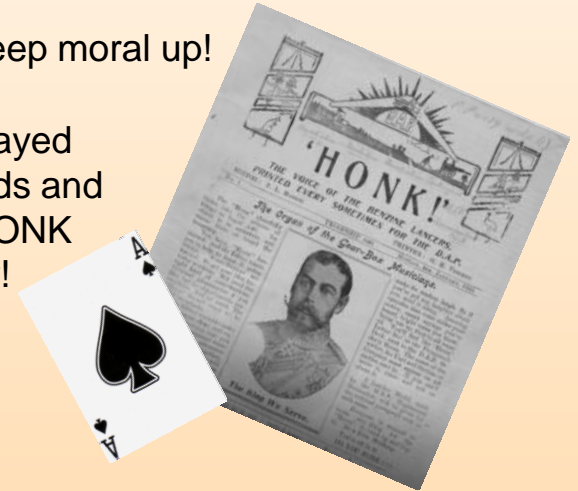


Soldiers did **NOT** live in trenches for years....

Average days in trench: 10 per month

Needed to keep moral up!

Soldiers played sports, cards and read the HONK newspaper!



No-man's land football match...

Lacks evidence that it actually happened

TRUE

Christmas day 1914: Gunfire stopped between British and German troops. They swapped gifts, shared photos and sang carols together.



Calling all Continents

The War took place in all continents except Antarctica.

War graves can be found across 96 different countries.

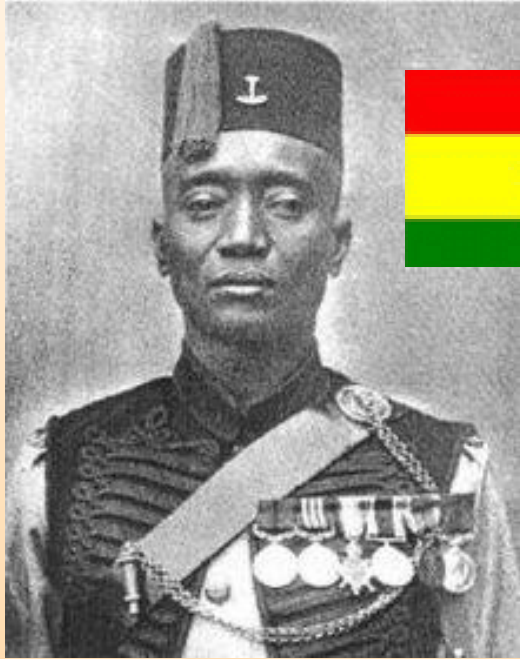
Images of WW1 usually represent the European countries and allies.....

It is important to remember that this war was global!



First shot.....

Lance Corporal Alhaji Grunshi - a soldier in the British army.



West Africa



The aim was to destroy Kamina wireless station that relayed messages to and from German colonies and forces around the world and was a pivot point for German naval communications.

He fired the first shot in **Togo, West Africa** just 3 days after the War declared. From the moment he fired that first shot, the Great War became the World's War

The fall of Kamina

On 26 August the German's surrendered (having burnt Kamina to the ground to prevent their enemies having control of it).

Togoland was divided between Britain and France.

Middle East oil

Economy

Power

In 1914, Large areas of the Middle East were under control of the Turkish Ottoman Empire.



When the Turks sided with Germany and the central powers, Britain was anxious not to lose control of the oil fields in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). This region became the focus of a bitter and costly conflict.

Basra - the base of operations for the British Army

WW1 shaped Britain today!

Power of the People

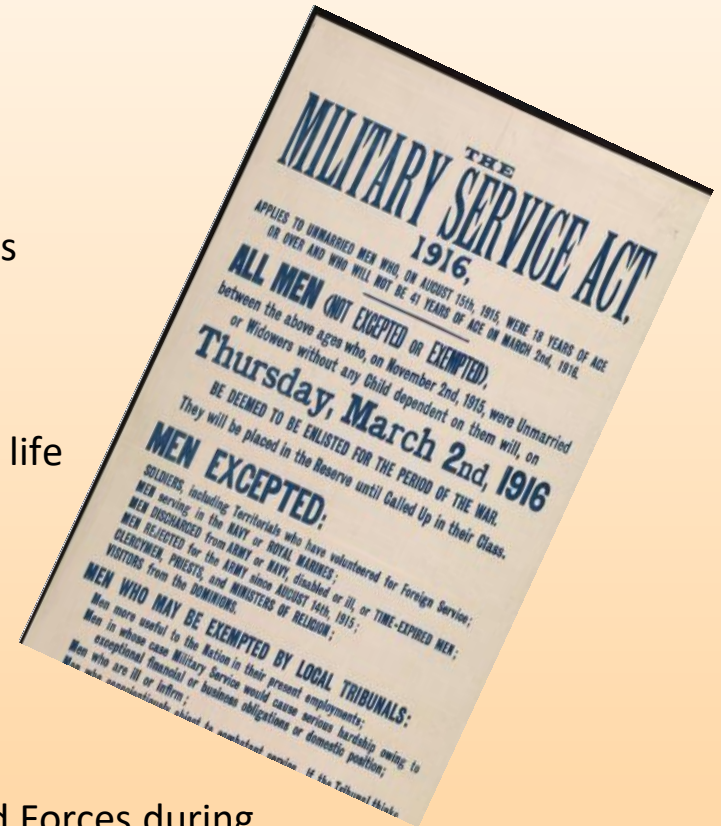
Volunteers, conscription and conscientious objectors

In 1914, The British Army was small but played an important role whilst **volunteers** were recruited trained.



Harry Drinkwater joined the army as a volunteer in 1914. He was the son of a shopkeeper in Stratford on Avon and was educated at the local grammar school. In 1917, he became an Officer.

He wrote diaries describing how difficult life in the trenches was, but also how they managed to have fun watching football matches and enjoying the sun.



Over 3,000,000 men volunteered to serve in the British Armed Forces during the first two years of the war. However, by the end of 1916 lots of these men had been killed. The government needed more soldiers. To make sure that men joined the army a law was passed. This law said that men could be forced to join the army. This is called Conscription.

Power of the poster

STEP INTO YOUR PLACE



BRITONS



**"WANTS
YOU"
JOIN YOUR COUNTRY'S ARMY
GOD SAVE THE KING**

Reproduced by permission of LON

"FALL IN"



**ANSWER NOW
IN YOUR COUNTRY'S
ARMY OF NEED**

THE EMPIRE NEEDS MEN!



**THE
OVERSEAS
STATES**

**All answer the call.
Helped by the YOUNG LIONS
The OLD LION defies his foes.
ENLIST NOW.**

**WOMEN OF BRITAIN
"SAY-
GO!"**



Do your bit.....

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 to keep the country going.

Coal Miners



Coal miners needed to return to their jobs to supply fuel to the country.

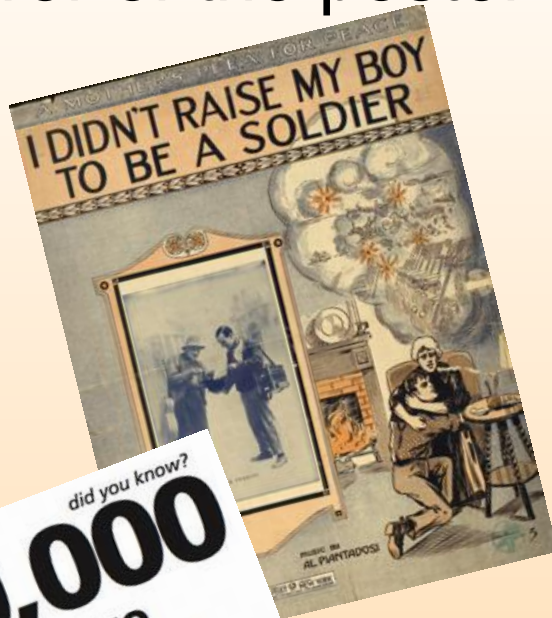


Farmers

Soldiers of the soil

Farmers were desperately need back on the land.

Power of the poster



Conscientious objectors who refused to serve any role, or to follow orders, 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.



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.



Women in WW1

German warships attacked the North East of England which killed women and children.

Attitudes in women changed - they wanted to do something useful and gain independence

Medical roles

Ambulance drivers

Car mechanics

Window cleaners

Dentist

Factory workers

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps
Provided women with opportunities to
contribute to the war.



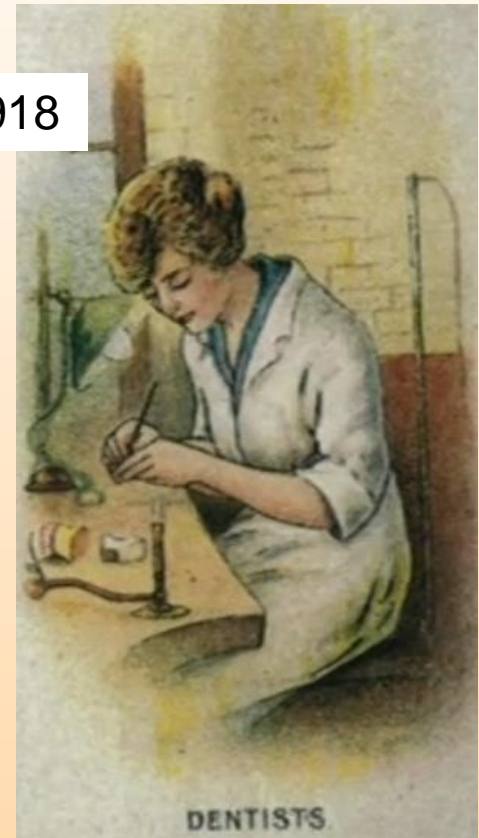
Women's Volunteer Reserve
Uniforms gave women a sense of authority.

> 1 million women across Britain were involved in 'War Work'.

Women in WW1

Representation of the people act 1918

Women over 30 or
householders
now allowed to vote!



Lest they forget

