

LUMIERE

Student Research Journal
2014-15



St. Andrew's College of Arts,
Science and Commerce

LUMIÈRE

Student Research Journal

2014-2015



Edited:
Prof. Janine Coelho
Dept. of History

Student Editor:
Zeica Drego (SY BA)

St. Andrew's College of Arts, Science and
Commerce

© 2015. Dr. Marie Fernandes

Published: May 2015
St. Andrew's College
Bandra, Mumbai 400 050

Printed by JRose Enterprises
27 Surve Service Premises, Sonawala X Road,
Goregaon (E), Mumbai 400 063.

Cover Design: Elenor Pinto
SYJC Arts

Contents

Staff Editor's Note	iv
Student Editor's Note	v
1. Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary	1
2. Living in the Trenches	4
3. Yuletide in the Trenches, 1914	9
4. Food Crisis During World War I	14
5. Women Power During World War I	17
6. India's Contribution to World War I	21
7. Lions of the Great War	24
8. Le Role De La France En Guerre Mondiale I	27
9. Effects of World War I on Children	30
10. 100 Years of War – The Soldiers Who Returned	33
11. Psychological Effects of World War I	37
12. Positive Effects of World War I	39
13. The Great War and Cinema	44

Staff Editor's Note

Welcome to our first edition of Lumiere, the Student Journal of St. Andrew's College, Bandra. For many years now, several departments have encouraged their students to research topics from or related to their syllabus and present their work in different ways and forums. But nothing quite matches the sense of accomplishment that a student feels when that research is published. I know I still cherish my fading old college magazines featuring my student articles and I cannot ever fully thank my professor Dr. Fleur D'Souza for her constant encouragement. We wanted our students to experience this sense of achievement and thus, selecting the centenary of the beginning of World War I as their inspiration, students were encouraged to research sub-themes of the Great War. This journal represents their hard work.

This journal would not have been possible without the driving force of our Principal, Dr. Marie Fernandes, and our staff who have guided and encouraged our students. Many thanks also to Zeica Drego, our student editor, for all her hard work.

Congratulations to all the students whose work is published here. We hope that you will be enthused to continue your research and serve as an inspiration for more students.

Prof. Janine Coelho
Department of History

Student Editor's Note

The First World War that broke out in 1914 was the defining movement of the 20th century and a massive conflict involving most of the independent and dependent nations of the world. It was multi-dimensional, with battles fought on land, air and sea. Though the Great War initially began in Europe, eventually, almost all countries of the world got dragged into it.

Since most of the countries outside Europe were not independent nations, the colonized powers were forced to fight alongside their parental powers and provide war-time efforts.

World War One was the first of its kind involving new technological inventions such as tanks, flamethrowers, poison gas, fighter aircrafts and other weapons of mass destruction the world had never known before. The introduction of advanced technology changed the course of the war, making it more destructive.

The year 2014 marked the centenary of the start of the Great War and like the rest of the world, we at St. Andrew's College commemorated the hundredth anniversary of the First World War through presentations on various topics pertaining to it.

The articles published in this magazine will give you an insight into the tragedies and casualties that occurred during this so called "War to end all wars" as well as provide facts and feats that are so frequently overlooked.

Before I sign off, I would like to invite you to envisage for yourself, the harsh reality of those awful dark hours of man's history when the whole world was at war with itself, when humanity pitted itself one against the other, to dominate and put their foes down so that their own agenda could prevail, thus giving rise to their own propaganda of self survival and dominance over all the others.

Zeica Drego (SYBA)

Editor

Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary

Lima James
(SYBA)

The First World War that broke out in 1914 was one of the most significant events in the history of the world. It caused tremendous destruction as compared to any other war, except World War II and greedily consumed the lives of 10 million troops. Such a disastrous event cannot be blamed on a single cause. The assassination of the Austrian Crown-Prince, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, followed by a series of events, eventually led to the outbreak of the First World War, dragging almost all countries of the world into it. The Archduke's assassination in the actual sense is perhaps overshadowed by the fact that the War, in itself, was a great tragedy. But, as the first victims of the war, he and his wife Sophie deserve to be mentioned as well.

Franz Ferdinand was the nephew of Hapsburg Emperor, Franz Joseph. He was not in line to ascend the throne himself, but crown prince Rudolf apparently committed suicide in 1889, making Ferdinand's father next in-line to be the Emperor. When his own father died in 1896, Ferdinand then became the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Born on 18th December 1863 in Graz, Austria, the Archduke was one of the richest men in Austria due to his royal authority. But, despite this burden, he travelled to many places and was a forceful and ambitious leader. His decision to marry Countess Sophie Chotek, a lady in-waiting, was considered to be most rebellious and also earned him the displeasure of his family and subjects.

Therefore, Sophie couldn't really appear along with her husband, due to differences in their ranks.

However, she accompanied him to Sarajevo on 28th June 1914. The date was of great significance to them as it was their wedding anniversary.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand wanted to visit Serbia to express his sympathy towards the country that had recently broken away from the Ottoman Empire, a traditional Austrian ally. He also hoped that this gesture would ease the tensions between Austria-Hungary and Serbia, who had previously engaged in two or three short wars. But this was great foolishness on the part of Ferdinand, who, despite getting repeated warnings from the rest of the world, decided to go ahead with his plan to tour a country that was now greatly restless and had become aggressive.

Serbian nationalists received word of the royals' visit to Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, in advance. They were outraged by what they considered to be a slap on the face to Slavic sovereignty. With members of the Black Hand, a nationalist group, they lined the streets awaiting Ferdinand's motorcade. One of them, Nedjelko Cabrinovic managed to throw a hand grenade into the open cab; however, it rolled off the back of the vehicle and wounded an officer and some bystanders. Later that day, Ferdinand left to visit the bombing victims in the hospital. Sophie insisted on coming with him. To be safe, they decided to take a different route through the city, but no one remembered to tell the driver. As a result, the car passed close to the site of the earlier attack, where members of the conspiracy were still loitering.

On realizing that they had gone the wrong way, the driver stopped the car to turn around. Gavrilo Princip, a nationalist with the Black

Hand, seizing the unexpected opportunity, stepped forward and shot the Archduke and his wife. She was struck in the abdomen, he in the neck. Bleeding heavily, he held on a little longer but both of them died within an hour.

His assassination was chosen by Austria to regard the murder as a conspiracy by the Serbian government. However, no proof has ever been found that the Serbian government conspired in the assassination, though the Serbian chief of intelligence was a member of the Black Hand. The Archduke's assassination was seen as a pretext by the Austrian government to settle its dues with Serbia and Germany pledged support to Austria. Russia supported Serbia and one after the other, France, Turkey, Italy and Britain were dragged into the war. The fuse was lit, the spark started and soon, Europe was aflame.

References:

- <http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/suic/ReferenceDetailsPage/ReferenceDetailsWindow?zid=5eebae3131ca48bee5c5cfc78ddeb149&action=2&catId=&documentId=ALE%7CEJ3048500135&userGroupName=s9940148&jsid=ac5c42943b650c1b36d400ae538d9dcd>
- <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/archduke-franz-ferdinand-assassinated>
- <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/216762/Francis-Ferdinand-archduke-of-Austria-Este>
- http://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/franz_ferdinand_archduke_of_austria-este

Living in the Trenches

Meagan Vaz
(TYBA)

Living in the trenches during the First World War was difficult and the conditions of the soldiers varied from one sector to the other. Death was a constant companion to those serving in the line even when no raid or attack was launched or defended against. In France, the constant shellfire directed by the enemy brought random death irrespective of whether the victims were waiting in a trench or lying in a dugout. Many men died in these trenches as a consequence of precisely aimed sniper bullets. Apart from these injuries, diseases took a heavy toll.

The trenches were infested with millions of rats. Both, brown and black rats were despised but the brown ones were feared more. Gorging on human remains, they could grow to the size of a cat. Men, annoyed and afraid, attempted to rid the trenches of these rats by various methods such as gunfire, with the bayonet and by trapping several of these and killing them. However, these attempts were futile. A single female rat could produce upto 900 offspring in a year thereby spreading infection and contaminating food. This problem persisted throughout the four years of war.

However, rats weren't the only source of infection and nuisance. Lice were a never ending problem, breeding in the seams of filthy clothing and causing men to itch unceasingly even when their clothes were periodically washed and deloused. Lice eggs invariably remained hidden in the seams and within a few hours of these clothes being re-worn, the heat generated by one's body caused the eggs to hatch. These lice caused trench fever, a painful disease that began with sudden, severe pain followed by high

fever. Recovering from this fever, away from the trenches took around twelve weeks.

Frogs, in massive numbers, were found in shell holes covered with water as well as at the base of the trenches. Slugs and horned beetles crowned the sides of the trenches. Trench foot was another medical condition that became common. It was a fungal infection of the feet caused by cold, wet and unsanitary conditions. Trench foot was a severe problem at the start of trench warfare. However, as conditions improved, it rapidly faded although a trickle of cases continued throughout the war.

Typically, a battalion would be expected to serve on the frontline. This would be followed by a stint spent in support. A period of rest would follow, generally short in duration, before the whole cycle of trench duty started afresh. In reality the cycle was determined by the necessities of the situation. Some would spend far longer on the front line than usual, especially in the busier sectors. A soldier was expected to spend around 70 days on the front line in a year, another 30 in the nearby support trenches and 120 days in reserve. Only 70 days could be spent at rest. The amount of leave varied with perhaps two weeks being granted during the war.

The daily routine in the trenches began with the morning "stand-to". An hour before dawn, everyone was roused from their slumber by the company orderly officer and sergeant and ordered to climb up on the fire step to guard themselves against a dawn raid by the enemy, bayonets fixed. This policy was adopted by both the sides and despite the knowledge that each side prepared itself for attacks at dawn, many were actually carried out at this time. As the day began to set in, the daily ritual often termed as the "morning hate" was carried

out. Both sides would often relieve the tension of the early hours with machine gunfire, shelling and small arms fire, directed into the mist to their front to ensure double safety.

In some areas, rum was issued to the men. They would then attend to the cleaning of the rifle equipments followed by the inspection of the officers. Breakfast was served next. In essentially every area of the line, at some time or the other, an unofficial truce was adopted while breakfast was being served and eaten. This truce often extended to the wagons which delivered such sustenance.

With breakfast over, the men would then be inspected by the company or commander. Necessary daily chores included the refilling of sand bags, repairing duck boards on the grounds and the draining of trenches. Particularly during heavy rainfall, the trenches would quickly accumulate muddy water, making life even more miserable for its occupants, as the walls of the trenches became weak and were prone to collapse. Pumping equipments were available for draining the trenches. Some soldiers were assigned to repair the trenches while others assisted in the preparation of latrines.

As the front line of each side was under constant watch by snipers during day light, movement was logically restricted until night. Once the soldiers had completed the tasks assigned to them, they could attend to more personal matters such as reading and writing letters to their loved ones back home. Meals were also prepared. Sleep was snatched frequently and the men were seldom allowed to grab more than a few minutes of rest before they were assigned to another task.

With the onset of dusk, the soldiers prepared to guard themselves against any surprise attack launched by the enemy and the trenches became a hive of activity. Supply and maintenance duties were carried out although there was a high risk of danger as the enemy became alert of such movements. Men would be sent to the rear lines to fetch rations and water. Generally, they were to provide duty for two hours. For a soldier who fell asleep on duty, the penalty was death by a firing squad.

The soldiers were relieved from their front line duties at night. Relieving units would wind their weary way through numerous lines of communication trenches, weighed down with equipment. The process of relieving a line could take several frustrating hours.

Thousands of rotting carcasses lay all around the trenches. Approximately 200,000 men were killed on the battlefields of Somme. Overflowing latrines gave off a horrendous stench. Most of the soldiers could not afford to have a bath in weeks or maybe even in months and therefore, it added to their misery. The trenches also smelt of creosol or chlorinated lime that was used to stave off the constant threat of infection. The smell of cordite, the lingering odour of poisonous gas, rotting sand bags, stagnant muddy water, cigarette smoke and rotten food made life extremely difficult in the trenches and yet, the men grew used to it.

"A Soldier's Cemetery", written by John William Streets, captures the futility and the sorrow of the First World War. It is regarded as one of the finest pieces of poetry to come out of the trenches. Unfortunately, John William's desire to live to see his poem published was never fulfilled. He was missing

for 10 months before his body was found on the battlefield of Somme on 1st May 1917. In the 1st verse of the poem, he wrote:

*"Behind that long and lonely trenched line,
To which men come and go, where brave men die,
There is a yet unmarked and unknown shrine,
A broken plot, a soldier's cemetery."*

References:

- www.bbc.co.uk
- www.history.com
- www.1914-1918.net
- www.firtworldwar.com.
- www.facts.randomhistory.com

Yuletide in the Trenches, 1914

Sharlene Fernandes
(SYBA)

We have recently passed the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, which has garnered a fair amount of press coverage. There is something profoundly important to remember about this tragedy, though sometimes the easiest way to deal with tragedy, if not outrage, was stoicism or escapism, involving a disarming sense of humor and irreverence.

The assassination of the heir to the Austrian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife in Sarajevo, in June 1914, sparked a rapid sequence of events which led to the outbreak of World War One. Lives of the soldiers during the First World War were miserable. Young boys were trained to fight for their country. New technologies, missiles and ships were invented. After months of forcing people to fight in the war, the time had finally come where, once ordinary citizens were now known as soldiers, who underwent rigorous training and were required to be in top physical shape.

Rarely in the history of warfare have conditions for regular fighting men been so terrible as they were in the trenches of World War One. This war devoured about ten million soldiers. These were four years of horrendous diseases, unbelievable stress and psychological strain; horrible food, terrible weather for fighting, and miserable living conditions. Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived all day and night. German trenches were lined on one side and the Allied trenches were lined on the other. In the middle

was **No Man's Land**, so-called, because it did not belong to either army. Soldiers crossed No Man's Land when they wanted to attack the other side.

They were badly affected by horrible diseases that existed throughout the war. Trench foot was one of them. Soldiers stood in water and mud all the time, with no way to dry their feet. Their skin turned either blue or red, which resulted in a terrible itching and peeling of the skin. Since they had to practically live in mud and water, Trench foot was very common. Frostbite, too, was a problem faced by many soldiers, since the temperature was cold enough to kill.

Soldiers dug trenches and erected barbed wire fences to hold on to their positions. Thus, the "**Trench Warfare**" nightmare had begun. In some places, trenches were just yards apart and as the soldiers realized that neither side was going to make any rapid progress, the trenches became more fortified. The opposing forces now had time to regroup and strengthen their lines with more men, but it soon became apparent to the generals and to the men on the front line that this was going to be a war of attrition, where the only way a 'winner' would be decided, would be when the other side ran out of men or ammunition.

One factor that assisted the conditions for an unofficial truce between the men was the weather. For much of December 1914 it had been wet but, on Christmas Eve, the temperature dropped and a sharp frost enveloped the landscape. A '**White Christmas**', as depicted on all traditional Christmas cards, would provide the backdrop to one of the most remarkable Christmas stories in over 2,000 years.

All of us should know, that the informal **Christmas Truce** which spread among soldiers in the trenches near Ypres in 1914, one hundred years ago, was instigated by a British officer writing to his German counterpart across No Man's Land. It spread up and down the battle lines as, for a few hours, the guns stopped firing while **yesterday's and tomorrow's combatants sang hymns together** and celebrated the birth of the Prince of Peace. The Germans seem to have made the first move. During the evening of December 24th, they delivered a chocolate cake to the British line accompanied by a note that proposed a cease fire so that the Germans could have a concert. The British accepted the proposal and offered some tobacco as their reciprocal gift to the Germans. **"You no shoot, we no shoot."**

Thousands of troops streamed across no-man's land strewn with rotting corpses. **Soldiers embraced men they had been trying to kill a few short hours before. They agreed to warn each other if the top brass forced them to fire their weapons and to aim high.** The goodwill soon spread along the 27-mile length of the British line. Enemy soldiers shouted to one another from the trenches, joined in singing songs and soon met one another in the middle of No Man's Land to talk, exchange gifts, sing Christmas carols, exchange photographs of loved ones back home, share rations and in some areas, to take part in impromptu soccer matches.

The high command on both the sides took a dim view of the activities, and orders were issued to stop the fraternizing with varying results. In some areas, the Truce ended on Christmas Day. In others, the following day, and in others, it extended right up to January. But one thing was for sure– **It Never Happened Again!**

"We and the Germans met in the middle of No Man's Land", exclaimed a British officer.

The Christmas Truce story goes against most of what we have been taught about people. It gives us a glimpse of the world as we wish it could be and says, "This really happened once." It reminds us of those thoughts we keep hidden away, out of the range of TV and newspaper stories that tell us how trivial and mean human life is. It is like hearing that our deepest wishes are really true and the world could be different. It was a spontaneous rise of humanity, celebrating their common Christian roots and faith. German soldiers placed makeshift Christmas trees on the edge of their trenches.

Historian Stanley Weintraub wrote in his book "Silent Night", how soldiers, after agreeing not to shoot each other sang carols in an odd fraternity of inveterate enemies turned into momentary friends by their common belief in God and the tradition of Christmas, Christmas caroling, and Christmas trees. Shaking hands, in the old Germanic tradition of showing that they were not armed, they shared cigarettes and food, extending the truce into Christmas Day. The combatants were able to dig graves, bury their dead, and hold memorials. Christmas 1914, became a day of fellowship, sharing food, trading uniform buttons, and playing soccer; a sliver of normalcy in a cruel and unnecessary war.

According to Weintraub, "No one there wanted to continue the war." Threatened by senior officers, the troops returned to fighting, went on with the grim business at hand. Remembering the truce in diaries and in letters sent home to their families, soldiers described those moments in time as a "marvelously wonderful" Christmas yet a very "strange"

event. German and British troops even posed for pictures together.

The enduring legacy of the truce has been positive and it's looked upon today as a wonderful example of humanity, during the dreadfully dark hours of man's history. It has been inspired in many songs, paintings, literature, films and other art works, too numerous to list. But its greatest legacy must surely be the **message of Hope**.

A Scottish poet of Great War vintage, Frederick Niven, may have got it right in his 'A Carol from Flanders,' which concluded:

*O ye who read this truthful rime From Flanders, kneel and say:
God speed the time when every day
Shall be as Christmas Day.*

References:-

- <https://wrathbearingtree.wordpress.com/2014/12/24/goodbye-to-christmas-truces/>
- <http://aladinrc.wrlc.org/bitstream/handle/1961/9909/Gordon,%20Jeanie%20-%20Spring%20'11.pdf?sequence=1>
- <http://www.1914-1918.net/intrenches.htm>
- <http://www.aaronsherp.com/stories/061.html>
- <http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/merry-christmas-in-the-trenches>

Food Crisis During World War I

Ryan Netto
(TY BSc Hosp)

The First World War was also called the Great War and it was the biggest war the world had seen in the 20th century. It comprised of two sides mainly the Central powers that included Germany, Austria-Hungary & Turkey and the Allies consisted of Serbia, Great Britain, France & Russia. Other European countries along with their colonies soon followed as they were bound by the treaties signed among each other. The war lasted from 1914-1918 and it claimed the lives of over 10 million people. The assassination of the Austrian Crown-Prince Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serbian nationalist in Sarajevo sparked a rapid series of events that ultimately led to the outbreak of World War One. A month later, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, its rival in the Balkan area. Germany declared war on Russia and France. After invading Belgium, Britain declared war on Germany and gradually, the whole of Europe was at war. Few people consider the impact the war had on food, its availability and price. An army marches on its stomach and thus governments had to find a way to get food to their troops while ensuring supplies back home.

The European governments controlled the prices of staple foods. Long queues for food comprising of women and children were common. Food distribution failed in Russia & Turkey and the Russians revolted with food riots. The Central powers started starving. The substitute ingredients used in staple foods had negligible nutritional value and led to malnourishment in Germany. With food prices soaring higher, the government implemented maximum prices on certain products including sugar and potatoes.

The German government also established compulsory 'meatless' and 'fatless' days to reduce strain on consumption.

At the beginning of the war, soldiers received adequate food per day. However, as the war progressed, food scarcity led to its quantity being reduced. Half the food was imported from North America which gradually declined after 1916 when German submarines started sinking American bulk carriers. Panic buying took place in the 1st year.

The Official Ration system introduced allowed a more equal distribution of food among the British. And there was no discrimination among the classes. Everyone was given a ration book indicating how much food they were allowed to buy including sugar, meat, flour, butter, margarine and milk. The rich became aware of what it felt like to have less food and the poor were satisfied that they were finally being looked after. This gave rise to processed tinned food products like meat stews and corned beef. Low quality of ingredients caused upset stomachs. Even King George and Queen Mary had ration books. Richer families for the first time discovered what it was like to go hungry. Wartime also produced some new foods such as dried soup and custard powder that just needed water to be added in them. Tea was an important ration and it hid the filthy taste of water which was often transported in fuel tins or drunk from puddles. Bread, known as Brot, was highly popular and it contained ingredients such as dried potatoes, oats, barley and even pulverised straw.

Hoover was the Food Administrator in USA. Food became a weapon during World War One. America, at the time of the war, was a major food producer and was not only self-sufficient in most agricultural commodities but also exported large quantities of grains and other food products. Hoover succeeded in cutting

the consumption of food needed overseas and avoided rationing at home and yet, kept the Allies fed. America had to produce the food needed for the new large army it was building as well as for the Allied armies and civilians. Hoover designed a voluntary program and called it food conservation but many Americans called it "Hooverizing." Various promotions were devised, such as 'Wheat-less Wednesdays' and 'Meat-less Mondays'. Hoover was convinced that the Americans would cooperate voluntarily to support the boys overseas. He did not want a mandatory programme and Government regulated rationing. The idea was mainly to ensure that American civilians modified their eating habits voluntarily so that more food was available for shipment overseas. All American housewives were urged to conserve food and eliminate waste. Signs and posters appeared in workplaces and public areas with the slogan "Food Will Win the War". Hoover managed to voluntarily reduce domestic food consumption by 15 percent without rationing and guaranteed the farmer a "fair price." There was an overseas market for all that could be produced and American food exports tripled.

References:

- World Book Encyclopedia ,
- Mullendore, William C. *History of the United States Food Administration, 1917-1921.*

Women Power During World War I

Aishwarya J. Devkar
(FYBA)

World War One, which began in 1914, was a war that changed the world. It was a pivotal step, not only for the colonial countries and the men that fought in the war, but also for women. This war gave women an opportunity to prove themselves in a male dominated society, doing more than cleaning their homes and attending to their children.

With so many men going to war, there was a large gap in employment and therefore, women came in to replace the men. Women undertook a number of roles such as nurses and factory workers. Thousands worked in munitions and encouraged the sale of war bonds. The Women's Royal Air Force was created consisting of women who worked on planes and as mechanics.

By 1917, it was surveyed that 68% of women had changed their jobs since the war began; 16% had moved out of domestic services, 22% that were unemployed in 1914 had jobs and 23% had changed factories.

Even though women were in high demand for industries where previously men were dominant, long established 'feminine jobs' were still common during the war. It actually created more domestic jobs because many women who worked in factories and outside their homes were unable to care well enough for their children. Help wanted advertisements, looking for general house work, were very easy to find in the newspapers' "help wanted" sections. Advertisements such as "widow: 40, very good appearance, whose only support has gone to war and would like to help out" and "Wanted- Reliable neat school girl

to assist in general house work” were ads commonly found. There were many women who, regardless of age and status, were willing to work either to help the nation win the war or to sustain the life of their family in the absence of their husbands and fathers.

As more and more men were drafted and had to leave their jobs, the United States government and various industries were seriously looking for female workers who could replace men. Especially during 1917 and 1918, there was a large demand for female stenographers, telegraphers, and phone operators. The Women’s Defense League mobilized to fill the gap. Potential telegraphers had to learn the code through memorization or by training themselves to carry out their work efficiently. Some newspapers wrote that women were more adept than men in this line of work. The various Rail-Road companies of the country employed hundreds of women cable operators, because they were known to be not only skillful, but also dependable. In “Situation Wanted” sections of the newspapers, two third of the total ads were looking for female stenographers. Women were willing to take more responsible jobs and were becoming not just a substitute labor force, but skillful workers. The government also required women to work as government clerks, stenographers and telegraphers.

Organizations such as the Red Cross, Patriotic League, and YWCA also made efforts to overcome wartime hardships that the nation faced. The Red Cross organized non-professional women to aid in relief work and many women joined as nurses. Others rolled bandages, knitted socks and worked in military hospitals. Most of the women were wives and mothers of the army men. The Red Cross War Council also created a women’s bureau, which appointed a National Advisory Committee of women that made

an effort to recruit every available woman in the campaign to seek adequate funds and supplies. Volunteering brought them out of the house and into the public.

The Patriotic League also trained girls for wartime activities. A branch of this league, the National Organization for Girls, was active in social services, work and war services. One newspaper article pointed out that hundreds, probably thousands, are doing their utmost to help win the war. The Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) was also concerned with the needs of the war. The association occasionally discussed the great increase in the duties of employment agencies of the YWCA, because of the war. In those discussions, they came to the conclusion that training girls to take the place of men was necessary.

Before the war, it was unusual for women to pursue their interests in mathematics, because typically, a woman's role was not to take up traditionally male dominated subjects. Therefore, getting higher education and obtaining specific skills wasn't a common interest that women could follow. During World War One, however, women worked in virtually every field of industries. They were replacing male jobs such as rail road workers, auto drivers, and other machine operators. One newspaper noted that 4,000 women were working for the Pennsylvanian Railroad. They assumed the position of doctors, lawyers, bankers and civil servants. Harvesting grain, running businesses, and driving trucks became common. Because of the war demands, the role of women changed and they developed new attitudes.

Many women also worked in ammunition factories, even though it was dangerous to work with explosive chemicals. They worked as power machine operators and in naval station shops as well. Many women worked in the supply and public works departments. One factory manager was quoted saying, "Women were seen as

quick learners. In some departments, they are more efficient than men, although those departments have been employing men excessively for years”.

Thus, the First World War provided women with a chance to show a male-dominated society that they could do more than simply bring up children and keep home. Women played a vital role in keeping soldiers equipped with ammunition and kept the production and factories running. Before the war, many women had no socio-economic power at all. However, by the end of the war, women had not only proven that their contribution to the war was as important as men, but also, they now earned their own money. They had won respect for their active participation in labour and society during war time crisis.

India's Contribution to World War I

Neil Mascarenhas

June 28, 1914 was the day when the chain of events that started World War One was set off. This conflict between the Central Powers and the Allies started with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria by Gavrilo Princip, a Serbian nationalist. Within a month and a half, Europe's five major powers were at war. Austria-Hungary declared war against Serbia; Germany declared war on Russia, France and Belgium; Great Britain declared war on Germany and thus, eventually, the war cast its shadow all over the world.

It was a global conflict and involved many Commonwealth countries that made huge sacrifices vital to Britain's war effort. India played a significant role in this war and contributed to Britain's war efforts since she was ruled by Britain. However, her contribution to the Great War is often overlooked. Many assume that only the Europeans fought in this war and when it broke out in 1914, India was in a state of growing political unrest. The Indian National Congress had gone from being a group that simply discussed issues to a body that was pushing for more self-government. Even before the war started, the Germans had spent a great deal of time and energy trying to stir up Anti-British sentiments in India. Should Britain get involved in a crisis somewhere in the world, Indian separatists would use this as an opportunity to advance their cause. This view was shared by many.

"The moment Britain gets into trouble elsewhere, India, in her present temper, would burst into a blaze of rebellion"- William Archer.

When the war was declared on August 4th, India rallied to the cause. Those with influence in India believed that the cause of Indian independence would best be served by helping out Britain in whatever capacity India could, including the Indian National Congress. Military and financial help were provided from all over the country. Staggering numbers of volunteers were sent to fight and die on behalf of the Allied forces. Almost 1.5 million Muslim, Sikh and Hindu men from regions such as Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Bihar volunteered in the Indian Expeditionary Force which was fighting on the Western Front, in East Africa, Egypt, Gallipoli and Mesopotamia. Wealthy princes offered large sums of money. Areas outside British India also offered help. Nepal volunteered and in total sent 100,000 Gurkhas and the Dalai Lama in Tibet offered 1,000 of his troops to the cause. Britain took many troops and most of her military equipment out of India once pre-war fears of unrest subsided. Indian troops were ready for battle before most of the other troops in the dominions, were on the Western Front by the winter of 1914 and fought at the first Battle of Ypres. By the end of 1915, they had sustained many casualties and a decision was taken to withdraw the Indian Corps from their front line duties.

In total about 800,000 Indian troops fought in all the theatres of the war, with 1.5 million volunteering to fight. This allowed them to break through the caste system. Also, becoming a soldier paid well and meant being a part of the warrior caste, giving them a higher status. The country also supplied 170,000 animals, 3.7 million tons of supplies, jute for sandbags and a large loan to the British government. In all 47,746 of the combatants were reported dead, 65,000 were wounded and 10,000 were reported missing while 98 Indian army nurses were killed. The Indian Corps won 13,000 medals for gallantry including 12 Victoria Crosses. Khudadad Khan won the Corps first Victoria Cross. Such was the

cost of the war that India's economy was pushed to near bankruptcy. The Indian support given to Britain's cause surprised the establishment in Britain.

'The Times' wrote: "The Indian empire has overwhelmed the British nation by the completeness and unanimity of its enthusiastic aid."

For its endeavours, India expected to be awarded with a major move towards independence or at the least, self-government. These expectations were shared by nationalist leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Muhammad Ali Jinnah (the founder of Pakistan) but were dashed by the extension of martial law at the end of the conflict. When it became obvious that this was not going to happen, the mood in India became more militant. Following this period, Gandhi launched his first India-wide campaign of Civil Disobedience against British authority in February 1919. It was not driven by Anti-Western or Anti-British sentiment per se, but by the pursuit of self-determination. It took a looming Second World War and the resistance against risking more Indian lives for little tangible return, before nationalist efforts redoubled under the auspices of the Quit India Movement.

Lions of the Great War

Heather D'Souza
(TYBA)

With the outbreak of the First World War in Europe, India, the Crown Jewel of the British Empire, joined the Allies in battle on the 4th of August 1914. Contributing the most volunteers of any of the British imperial holdings that fought in the war, India produced between 900,000 to 1.5 million troops for combat by 1919. Of these troops, the Sikhs, one of the two loyal 'martial races' of the British Raj, rallied in enormous numbers for the King, Empire, and the defence of Europe.

At the beginning of the war, Sikh military personnel numbered around 35,000 men of the 161,000 troops of the Indian Army; around 22% of the armed forces and yet the Sikhs made up less than 2% of the total Indian population. By the end of the war 100,000 Sikh volunteers joined the British Armed forces with a few Sikhs also contributing to the French Air Service and the American Expeditionary Force.

It is also said that some Sikh soldiers, captured in Belgium by the Germans, were believed to have been Muslims and were taken to Turkey to fight alongside their fellow 'Mohammedans'. However, they still remained loyal to the British Crown and escaped on a long trek to the British posts in Afghanistan, from Turkey through the Middle East, to once again fight under the British flag.

Though being paid a mere 11 rupees a month for his services to the Empire, the Sikh soldier took his duty as a soldier in an almost religious aspect in a romanticized idea of being a martyr

and a knight for the King. The idea of martyrdom and battlefield heroics proved to be a necessity for the British as they were being pushed back by the Germans time and time again. In fact, the British felt it necessary to nourish Sikh fanaticism by allowing the Sikhs areas to set up temporary Gurdwaras (Sikh Temples), to observe the birthdays of Sikh gurus, to use traditional Sikh weapons (such as Sikh quoits and the sabre) and it was not uncommon to see the Sikh holy book, Guru Granth Sahib, being carried before a marching Sikh battalion or even on the front lines among the battling Sikh troops.

These 'unique stalwarts from the east,' fought in the battles of Ypres, Flanders, the Somme, Gallipoli, East Africa, Palestine, Egypt / Suez Canal, Mesopotamia, and numerous other battlefields in nearly all theatres of the war.

This article cannot justly commemorate the contribution of these fine warriors who fought disease, filth, gas attacks, and the onslaught of German and Turkish troops and maxim guns with only their turbans to protect them from head wounds and their unshorn hair and long beards, as prescribed by their religious faith, in disease infested, muddy trenches.

The average Indian battalion had around 764 men when they landed in France, but by November 1914, the 47th Sikhs had only 385 men left. In Gallipoli, the 14th Sikhs lost 371 officers and men in mere minutes and thousands of other Sikhs died in various other encounters such as Neuve Chappelle and the Somme. The "Black Lions" of Punjab, as the Arabs called them in Mesopotamia, sacrificed their lives for the defense of freedom in Europe, for an ally that was ruling their own homeland, yet they did it out of honour and loyalty.

A Sikh soldier, Indar Singh, fighting on the battlefield of Somme in September 1916, wrote home: "It is quite impossible that I should return alive. But don't be grieved at my death, because I shall die arms in hand, wearing the warrior's clothes. This is the most happy death that anyone can die."

References

- www.theguardian.com
- www.bbc.co.uk
- www.sikhs.org

Le Role De La France En Guerre Mondiale I

Kelly Waller & Cyberica Fernandes
(FYBA)

La société française n'était pas toujours aussi libre que ne l'est aujourd'hui. La Révolution française était un tournant décisif dans l'histoire sociale et politique européenne. La Révolution française fut une période influent de bouleversement social et politique en France qui a commencé en 1789. La prise de la Bastille est considérée comme l'un des incidents les plus célèbres dans l'histoire du monde. La première République a été créée en 1792 et a été officiellement appelé France 'La République française'. France était en avance sur le monde et a formé La Déclaration de l'Homme et du Citoyen, qui a donné citoyens l'égalité des droits et des lois justes.

Idéaux révolutionnaires français –en particulier les idéaux de la nation et universel rights, influence le développement d'autres mouvements nationaux. Il a eu un impact majeur sur l'Europe et le Nouveau Monde. De cette façon, la Révolution a agi comme un modèle pour toutes sortes de sociétés à l'avenir. Il était profondément contribue à façonner la politique, la société et la religion. Le concept de la liberté à travers les représailles est ne grâce à la révolution.

Par la suite, la France était une puissance majeure en Europe pour la plupart de l'époque modern. Louis XIV au 17ème siècle et Napoléon au 19ème siècle, avaient étendu la puissance française sur la plupart de l'Europe grâce à la diplomatie habile et la suprématie militaire. Le traité de Vienne en 1815 a confirmé la France comme un courtier de puissance européenne

L'assassinat de l'archiduc Autrichien, Franz Ferdinand par un group serbe était la cause directe du déclenchement de la guerre mondial

I. Les grandes puissances du Monde immédiatement forme deux groups; Les Alliés et Les Puissances Centrales. Pendant la Guerre Mondiale I, la France était l'un des trios pouvoirs alliés contre les puissances dans le monde entier, le gros des combats en Europe a eu lieu Belgique, le Luxembourg, La France et l'Alsace-Lorraine. L'armée française a tenté de répondre aux combats au jour le jour et les programmes stratégiques et opérationnels à long terme. France a subi le plus de victimes dans la Première Guerre Mondiale à la bataille de Verdun 1916, ou plus de 3 00 000 hommes ont été morts. Malgré leurs pertes terribles, les français poursuivis jusqu'à ce que la guerre ténacité les Allemands fut finalement vaincus.

Aujourd'hui, la France est un leader sur les marches mondiaux. Leur économie est forte et est place dans le top dix dans le monde. La France a subi une perte et d'agitation à travers l'histoire. Cependant, les Français restent un people uni avec le courage de mare tempête.

The Role of France in World War I (English Translation)

French society was not always as liberal as it is today. The French Revolution was a critical turning point in European social and political history. The French Revolution was an influential period of social and political upheaval in France that began in 1789. The storming of the Bastille is considered to be one of the most famous incidents in world history. The first Republic was established in 1792 and France was formally called 'The French Republic'. France was ahead of the world and formed the Declaration of Man and of the citizen which gave citizens equal rights and just laws.

French revolutionary ideals, especially ideals of nationhood and universal rights, influenced the development of other national movements. It had a major impact on Europe and the New World. In this way, the revolution acted as a model for all sorts of societies

in the future. It was profound in shaping politics, society and religion. The concept of freedom through retaliation was born through the revolution.

Thereafter, France was a major power in Europe for most of the Early Modern Era. Louis XIV in the 17th century and Napoleon in the 19th century had extended French power over most of Europe through skilful diplomacy and military supremacy. The Treaty of Vienna in 1819 confirmed France as a European power broker.

The assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serbian group was the direct cause of World War I. The major powers of the world immediately formed two groups; the Allies and the Central Powers. During World War I, France was one of the three powers allied against the Central Powers. Although fighting occurred worldwide, the bulk of the fighting in Europe occurred in Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Alsace-Lorraine. The French army tried to respond to day-to-day fighting and long term strategic and operational agendas. France suffered the most casualties in World War I at the Battle of Verdun in 1916, where over 300000 men were killed. Despite their dreadful losses, the French prosecuted the war tenaciously until the Germans were finally defeated.

Today, France is a leader in global markets. Their economy is strong and is placed among the top ten in the world. France has suffered loss and turmoil throughout history. However, the French remain a united people with courage to ride the storm.

100 Years of War – The Soldiers Who Returned

Amulya Singh
(SYBA)

100 years have passed since we discovered for the first time what war between two colossal opponents can be like. The **First World War** initially known as '**The Great War**' caused tremendous destruction. The money, time and losses suffered were almost equal on both the sides. At the end of the war, even the side that *won* couldn't really call it a victory. The war had many socio-economic effects that changed the whole structure of the world and the way in which it functioned. But among all the calculations of who won, who lost and other such statistics, we forget those who played the most important part in it, the common Soldiers!

We remember the soldiers as war heroes, but the casualty count of this war was enormous. A whole generation of young men were wiped out in this war. It was fought on so many fronts and for so long that almost every individual who was an adult became involved in it. We often remember those who lost their lives in this war, but what about those who did return? These soldiers came back to find their world changed and they were expected to readjust to this changed world after being at war for 5 years.

When the war ended, thousands of soldiers returned to their homes. Most of them retired from the armed forces because the standing force was too large to sustain in peace time. The demobilisation of these forces brought a huge number of people into the job market. However, the soldiers had no job security or any guarantee that they would be able to find gainful employment. Initially, these soldiers found jobs with varying success, but as

the world was enveloped by **The Great Depression of 1928**, the unemployment rate increased.

Unemployment was not only due to the economic conditions. Other causes included the condition of the ex-soldiers themselves. Many had suffered a lot due to the war and experienced many horrors. These caused flashbacks and nightmares, unexplained outbursts of temper or violence and it affected their ability to concentrate. Many of the soldiers suffered from life-long injuries like limb impairment and this rendered most of them unemployable. There was also a significant change in the socio-cultural dynamic during and after the war. During the war, most able bodied men had been recruited into the armed forces, thereby creating an urgent need for labour which was satisfied by the women. Young women joined the workforce to support war efforts and contributed towards the smooth functioning of the country and its economy. When the war ended, many women continued to work and employers who had been impressed with them were happy to keep them on.

The soldiers also faced a huge challenge due to a lack of skills. Most of these young men, between the ages of 19 to 21 were recruited into the armed forces and thus had been robbed of years when they could have learned skills for employment or gone on to higher studies. Instead they were trained for a war that was now over. After being at war for more than half a decade, they returned to the job market unskilled in their mid-twenties. This was also exacerbated because technology had progressed by leaps and bounds during the war, many new factories had been built and work usually performed by unskilled labourers had been replaced by machines. This made employment a huge challenge for the returning men.

However, unemployment wasn't the only concern of the soldiers who came back. In the fall of 1918, the Great War in Europe was

winding down and peace was on the horizon. The Americans had joined the fight, bringing the Allies closer to victory against the Germans. Deep within the trenches these men lived through some of the most brutal conditions of life which couldn't have gotten any worse than it already was. But then across the globe, something seemingly innocuous like common cold erupted. The influenza of that season, however, was not simply the common cold. In two years this scourge ravaged the globe, infecting a fifth of the world's population and killed almost 20 to 40 million people. It has been cited as the most deadly and devastating pandemic in world history. Many of those who died in Europe were returning soldiers already weakened by trench diseases and conditions

Soldiers also felt alienated from thousands of others who had not actively participated in the war. The soldiers who had fought in the war looked down upon those who hadn't. There were also Anti-War sentiments among people in most of the participating countries because of the damage caused to the economy and various other effects of the war. Soldiers held a sense of pride about their wartime efforts and took offence at people who held such sentiments. Opposition facing the soldiers also increased when some of the governments tried to pass legislations that would lead to preferential treatment of the soldiers in the workforce. The already disgruntled working class grew even more frustrated as working conditions were not improved and there was more competition for fewer jobs. Consequently, the alienation of the soldiers was caused by themselves and other factors.

Thus, returning soldiers found a very changed society. They could not re-adjust to their pre-war state of lives because of the changes in the whole structure of society and their own experiences. After suffering various hardships and surviving the war, returning to this changed, sometimes hostile society had become another battle

for them. As a result, the war never really ended for these men. They fought the enemy and tried to restore their country's lost glory but upon returning to their homeland, they had to fight themselves and their own countrymen.

References:

- en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonus_Army
- sites.google.com/a/adamscott.ca/world-war-i-museum-feb-2010/illness-and-disease-medicine-room-for-the-first-world-war
- www.skwirk.com/p-c_s-14_u-43_t-50_c-148/soldiers/nsw/soldiers/australia-between-the-wars-1920s/australians-between-the-wars-1920s
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I

Effects of World War One on Children

Hina Sondhi
(SYBA)

The First World War brings to mind images of physical destruction, social disintegration, famine, food shortages, refugees and above all, a holocaust and massacre of humanity where innocents were put to death. Families that form the fabric of society were blown to smithereens as their loved ones were dead, missing and maimed. The pain and hollowness of life stared them in the face long after the war was over. Did human life have no value?

The Great War, which centered in Europe, began on the 28th of July 1914, and lasted till 11th November 1918, leaving about 9 million combatants and 7 million civilians dead.

The two factions that fought the war were the Allies on one side, based on the Triple Entente of United Kingdom, France and the Russian Empire and the Central Powers of Germany and Austria – Hungary and the Ottoman Empire on the other. Italy, Japan and the United States later joined the Allies while the colonies in Asia and Africa were dragged along. As fathers, husbands, brothers and sons left their homes to join the army; mothers, wives, sisters and daughters joined factories and worked long hours to be the bread earners of the family, thereby changing the family dynamic.

The war loomed large and robbed children of their childhood. The daily life routine however mundane it might have seemed, education and family structure of children were affected. Families and children had little time to spend together. Older children in the absence of their parents had to take on the forced responsibility of looking after their siblings. Acute poverty even pushed some to take up work instead of going to school and completing their

education or take to the streets to become anti social elements. Children who had joined youth organizations were called to mobilize funds for the war effort. The vulnerable and impressionable children were confused as they never understood what the war was all about and why it was going on. Children, whose fathers were killed or maimed for life, were cynics in their relationships with adults or children their age. One of the easiest coping mechanisms war ridden children adopted was alcohol and drug abuse, these being especially common in street children.

Many girls and young women were victims of rape and sexual violence which was used as a war weapon, leaving them to bear children at a very tender age or physically bruised in such a manner, never to experience motherhood in their lifetime. With hospitals and health centres destroyed during the war, no nurses around, children were most vulnerable to diseases like malaria, diarrhea, flu and cholera and the unfortunate afflicted died due to no treatment. The Pandemic Flu of 1918 better known as the Spanish Flu took the lives of many children, some of whom died within hours or days of contracting it.

Many children in war zones were killed or maimed by the bombs, land mines or bullets of the war. The tremendous levels of carnage and destruction caused by the grueling trench warfare and the introduction of modern weaponry such as machine guns, tanks and chemical weapons took its death toll on the young population as many of the soldiers were between the age group of 15 to 49 years. Men returning from war due to "shell shock" better known as post – traumatic stress disorder, were admitted in asylums, shunned by the society as cowards or even shot dead which left a deep seated impact for life on their surviving children.

German U-Boats sank passenger ships loaded with men, women and children trying to cross the Atlantic such as the Lusitania in 1915. The Armenian Genocide also known as the Armenian Holocaust or the Armenian Massacres saw the Ottoman Government's (present day Republic of Turkey) mass extermination of its minority community, the Armenians. Estimates show that 1 to 1.5 million Armenians were killed either in massacres or were forced on death marches through the Syrian Desert.

At large children were victims of physical, psychological and emotional trauma due to the Great War. It unleashed a semi – apocalypse for children who could not comprehend why their once seemingly safe and secure world had turned into a nightmare.

References

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World War 1](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_1)
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_minehttp://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_mine
- http://www.academia.edu/7579661/Rape_in_First_World_War_France_and_Belgium_Nuanced_Perspectives
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Effect_of_World_War_I_on_children_in_the_United_States
- <http://experiencesonthewesternfront.weebly.com/impact-on-soldiers-and-their-families.html>
- <http://www.warchild.org.uk/issues/effects-war-children>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armenian_Genocide
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1918_flu_pandemic
- <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/world-war-i-history>

Psychological Effects of World War I

**Delysha Dias, Jovita D'Souza,
Hina Sondhi, Valerie Rego,
Vivek D'Souza, Jason Fernandes.**
(SYBA)

War has always resulted in the destruction of life and property; body and mind; people and places. This article deals with effects of the Great War on the psyche of soldiers, civilians and governments alike.

The article is broadly divided into four categories, namely, Mental Disorders such as PTSD, Psychological Warfare such as propaganda film, Phobia, such as Anti-German sentiment and lastly, Mental Health which includes intervention and screening procedures. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was most common to soldiers subjected to trench warfare and chemical warfare. Before the term PTSD was even coined, the psychological distress endured by soldiers was termed as "shell shock" since it was believed that these symptoms were triggered due to exposure to exploding bomb shells. While shell shock presented symptoms of classic hysteria, the military surgeons refrained from calling it so due to the association of hysteria with effeminacy. Anxiety disorders, mainly PTSD, were so named and studied post World War Two.

Psychological warfare (PSYWAR) has always been implemented. However, with the advancements made in technology and communication, it was used to target an entire population and even governments. Due to strong diplomatic ties, countries such as Great Britain could easily influence the Arabs to revolt against the Ottoman Empire. Psychological warfare was also used to instil certain phobias and unfriendly sentiments by distributing airborne pamphlets documenting the atrocities of the enemy countries against neutral countries. For example, pamphlets distributed to neutral countries documenting atrocities committed by the German

army against Belgian civilians. Due to this, a strong Anti-German sentiment or Germanophobia was born in the hearts of many people. This enabled the governments of the warring countries to goad its populace into action and get maximum support from them in the war.

After the First World War was over, military psychiatrists realized the state of fragility of the soldiers' psyche. They required screening programs to identify mental disorders such as shell shock. These programs were devised by Thomas W. Salmon. Also, intervention strategies were used to treat long term psychiatric disabilities. The treatment programs turned out to be a huge success in the United Kingdom and Salmon went on to continue his treatment programs in the United States.

References :

- <https://historyofptsd.wordpress.com/world-war-i/>
- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3181586/>
- <http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/09/world-war-ones-forgotten-female-shell-shock-victims/378995/>
- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2089086/>
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-German_sentiment
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psychological_warfare
- www.psywarrior.com/psyhist.htm

Positive Effects of World War I

Diksha Agrawal
(SYBA)

World War One completed a 100 years in 2014. It still marks a deafening remorse and brings back frightening memories of the war once fought by our innocent ancestors, who were nothing but a part of the British Colony. The Allied Powers and the Central Powers gave their men, resources, technology, warfare tactics and everything that they could give away to the war, in order to glorify themselves in the name of Patriotism. But what did the War give them in return? MASSIVE DESTRUCTION! Yes, it brought along horrible conditions, land destruction, shortage of food, misery and every other possible petrifying situation all over the world.

As the saying goes, "There are two sides to every coin", one has to ponder if there were any positive effects that came about as a result of this war. Have you ever wondered if World War One had proved to be a blessing to mankind in any way?

It might sound strange to debate if World War One had any good effects for Human Society or not, but in spite of the destruction it left in its wake, certain reforms took place after the war which led to positive consequences. One of the biggest victory it achieved was on Christmas Eve 1914, popularly known as the Christmas Truce. It played a significant role in the lives of the soldiers fighting against each other with no real reason for personal rivalry. On Christmas Eve of 1914, the soldiers tried their best to hold impromptu Christmas celebrations. To raise their morale, they sang Christmas carols. In fact they could hear their enemies also singing, from the other side of no man's land. Being buoyed with the Christmas spirit, soldiers

made impromptu signs wishing their enemies a joyous Christmas.

The next day, British soldiers were startled to see their German counterparts walking unarmed across no man's land. Rifles were reluctantly drawn but nobody was of a mind to use them. After a tense couple of exchanges, men started to leave the trenches in order to meet their sworn enemies, in the middle of no man's land. Both sides started to chat and since it was Christmas, they even exchanged gifts. Soon enough, the opposing armies were freely mingling in the middle of no man's land which had so recently seen such great devastation and death. Senior officers were alerted and were shocked to see their men socializing with the enemies. However, they saw no reason to stop the festivities and even brought more liquor to fuel the celebration. Unofficially, commanding officers agreed upon a temporary truce.

Unfortunately, this incident would never be repeated. The Generals would never again allow such a weakening of their men's morale. However, the Christmas Truce remains a potent reminder of man's instinctive aversion for hatred and desire for harmony. Such scenes occurred time and again during World War One, but it succumbed to the pressure of the Generals.

The other important outcome of the First World War was the greater acceptance of women. Before the war, the Suffragette Movement had largely failed to convince the world that women should play an active role in society. However, during the war, women were presented with many opportunities to take on jobs that were previously reserved strictly for men. Women became more visible in various spheres of work. They were seen doing important jobs. The war proved to be a significant

factor in giving women the right to vote in 1919 and helped change social attitudes towards them forever. Being a woman or married was no longer allowed to disqualify someone from holding a job in professional fields or civil services.

Greater respect for workers was noticed in society. During the First World War, the industrial battle was as important as the actual fighting. Countries gave greater importance to the welfare of those working in munitions and trade unions gained acceptance. The war ironically led to several gains for the poorest in society. When landlords pushed up rents, there was a popular backlash against the war profiteers. Lloyd George personally intervened and promised that rents would be regulated by the government. The first rent control act was implemented in the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (War Restrictions) Act of 1915. It was supposed to be temporary, but in 1920, the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act 1920 was passed.

There was a wave of unexpected courage, not just to fight the war but also to stand strong for one's principles. The soldiers not only had the courage to fight the war with qualities like steadfast loyalties and selfless service but they also raised their voices, conscientiously objecting to fight the war and standing up for the principles they had faith in. For example, **Bertrand Russell** was jailed for his opposition to the First World War. This made the common man know of the power he possessed within himself. It created a sense of awareness among the soldiers that if they played an important role in the war, they could change the course of the war if they wanted to.

The League of Nations came into being at the end of the war with the aim of preventing all future wars, as the First World War was a colossal failure of the pre-war 'balance of power'

theory. **Woodrow Wilson** envisaged that in the future, conflicts could be settled through diplomacy and an international organization devoted to global peace. Although many considered it to be a failure, it formed the basis of the idea of global co-operation and world peace. Even though it was unable to achieve its goal of preventing another war, it had great symbolic importance and was the forerunner to the United Nations.

The awareness of war-time horror made a huge difference in everyone's lives. People dreaded to imagine witnessing or participating in something so horrendous again. The stalemate and ongoing horrors of the war led many men to question why they were fighting. War poets such as **Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon** and **Vera Britain** left strong anti-war literature which influenced later generations. The massed cemeteries of Flanders stand as stark reminders of the tragic consequences of the war. The trepidation of repeating this part of history in the future has made people more critical of the situation before rushing to war.

World War One has taught us various lessons. It united the whole world against war. Nations against World War Two, the Allies, tried their level best to prevent the outbreak of another major war and disintegrate the rise of the Axis powers. But eventually, a full-fledged war took place, devouring millions of lives. Where one side of the world was horrified and shocked by the commencement of an even deadlier war, the other faced the actual terror of this insane war in the name of "Love for their Nations". The Allies, however, were successful in crushing the Axis powers and ended the war with a promise to minimize the chances of future battles taking place on beautiful Mother Earth.

A hundred years have gone by since the outbreak of the First World War. Society has evolved gradually since then and we owe a lot to the war which devoured millions of lives at that time, only to help us move forward, towards a better livelihood and future. Humanity retained a certain dignity and aspirations for higher ideals. Every dark cloud has a silver lining. Similarly, the First World War, in spite of the havoc it created the world over, produced some positive fruits.

References:

- <http://blog.biographyonline.net/2011/01/positive-aspect-of-first-world-war.html>
- <https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20090107153303AA1FfrH>
- <http://www.mapsofworld.com/world-war-i/effects.html>
- http://www.answers.com/Q/What_were_the_positive_effects_of_World_War_1

The Great War and Cinema

**Manuela D’Rosario, Lavina Isai,
Valerie Rego
(SYBA)**

World War One, also known as the Great War, was the first to be fought on a global scale, spawning mass destruction and genocide, including the death of soldiers and civilians and the disappearance of four great empires. There were several interesting facts about cinema during the First World War that convinced us to choose The Great War and Cinema as the topic for this article and to commemorate an art that reflected life during the Great War.

Films during the war were mainly of the propaganda type. A classic example of this is the British historical, propaganda film *The Battle of The Somme* (1916), shot by official cinematographers Geoffrey Malines and John McDowell. The film depicts the early days of the battle of the Somme (1st July – 18th November 1916). The film also encapsulates the horror and tragedy of trench warfare, chemical warfare using mustard gas and the death and injuries incurred by the British troops. *The Battle of The Somme*, using real live footage brings to the viewer the shocking reality of a soldier in the trenches.

The second film was the epic biographical film, *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962), based on the true story of Thomas Edward Lawrence, a British Army officer renowned especially for his liaison role, during the Arab revolt against the Ottoman Turks. The film depicts Lawrence’s struggles with his identity, divided allegiance between his country Great Britain and his newfound friends and comrades in the Arabian Desert. In the film Lawrence is shown to have two identities—that of a civilised man and a coldblooded ruthless killer.

Lawrence, played by British actor Peter O'Toole, serves as a microscopic metaphor for the macroscopic issue of how war affects the human psyche.

The third film was a French romantic film, *A Very Long Engagement* (2004), starring Audrey Tautou and Gaspard Ulliel, based on a 1991 novel of the same name by Sebastien Japrisot. The protagonist of this movie, Mathilde, has lost her fiancé to the Great War. She has been told that he was killed in the war and despite knowing this, she goes on to search for him and find out the truth by enlisting the help of a private investigator. Her search, however, leads her to uncover the corruption and moral bankruptcy of the French officials dealing with deserters and prisoners of war.

In the words of Harry Patch, the last surviving soldier of World War One, "I felt then as I feel now, that the politicians who took us to war should have been given the guns and told to settle the differences themselves, instead of organizing nothing better than legalized mass murder."

References:

- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_of_Arabia_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_of_Arabia_(film))
- www.historylearningsite.co.uk > World War One
- www.rottentomatoes.com/m/lawrence_of_arabia
- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Battle_of_the_Somme_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Battle_of_the_Somme_(film))
- www.britishpathe.com/video/battle-of-the-somme
- www.iwm.org.uk/server/show/nav.496
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Very_Long_Engagement
- www.rottentomatoes.com/m/a_very_long_engagement_2004