



"Erster Weltkrieg in Alltagsdokumenten" – The First World War in everyday documents

Press Release

*„Soldier Berger has been deloused at the local
delousing station today“*

Overwhelming Public Participation in the Project

Berlin, 10 June 2011: Hundreds of participants of all ages have contributed a great variety of personal memorabilia from World War I to the online project www.europeana1914-1918.eu. Due to the overwhelming success, four additional participation days will take place in Dresden, Erfurt, Kiel and Regensburg in June/July 2011.

Ranging from individual field postcards and photos to huge albums, detailed diaries or commemorative beer mugs to an entire box filled with a sword, spiked and steel helmets and a regiment's grave cloth, everything imaginable has been among the contributions. A rather unusual item is a 'delousing chit', the use of which was probably limited to one unit only. It informed the bearer, soldier Berger, that he was now clean and free of vermin of the trenches. It is documentary evidence of soldiers being communally bathed, or perhaps more accurately dunked and rubbed down, in disused breweries, or mobile bath units.

Maybe even the fate of Otto Arndt can be clarified now. He was a German soldier and prisoner of war and close friend of the British L.A.C. Bernard Darley. A short film made as part of the project tells the story of the friends' heroic deed.

The project "First World War in everyday documents" started on 24 March 2011. It is a joint initiative of Europeana, the German National Library and Oxford University. Overall more than 350 people attended the previous four participation days in Frankfurt am Main, Berlin, Munich and Stuttgart. Over 15,000 digital images were taken from documents and memorabilia brought in. A large part of the contributions is already catalogued and is publicly available for research on the project website, along with directly uploaded objects.

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europeana
Erster Weltkrieg

Further Public Participation Days

- Stadt- und Regionalbibliothek Erfurt, 14 June 2011, 10-18 h
- Sächsische Landes- und Universitätsbibliothek Dresden, 22 June 2011, 10-18 h
- Zentralbücherei Kiel, 29 June 2011, 10-18 h
- Staatliche Bibliothek Regensburg, 20 July 2011, 10-18 h

"Delousing Chit" of Soldier Max Berger, 16 May 1917



Brought to the participation day in Berlin, 2 April 2011

Transcription/Translation:

Entlausungsschein

Der Soldat Berger ist heute in der hiesigen Entlausungsanstalt entlaust worden. Desgleichen die von ihm mitzuführenden Sachen.

Delousing Chit

Soldier Berger has been deloused at the local delousing station today. Likewise his belongings.

..., 16 May 1917 Feldhilfsarzt / auxiliary military surgeon

stamp:

Königl. Preuss. Sanitäts-Korps. 235 (Royal Prussian Sanitary Corps 235)

www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en/browse

www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en/contributions/1088

The friendship of Bernard Darley and Otto Arndt

Short film: ca. 4.48 min. www.europeana1914-1918.eu

L.A.C. Bernard Darley, R.A.F, was commended for fighting a fire at a workshop in St Omer, France. He entered a burning building and fought the fire from within to prevent the explosion of two petrol filled tanks and electrical fire to the nearby power station, at great risk to his own life.

He was assisted through the entire operation by a German Prisoner of War named Otto Arndt. The two became friends. Otto crafted Bernard a matchbox as a gift. The matchbox is inscribed with the words "Souvenir from France / St Omer / Otto Arndt".

In the film, Luisa Arndt, who may be Otto's great granddaughter, searches for information about Otto and finds out about his story.

Images and footage for media use can be provided.