

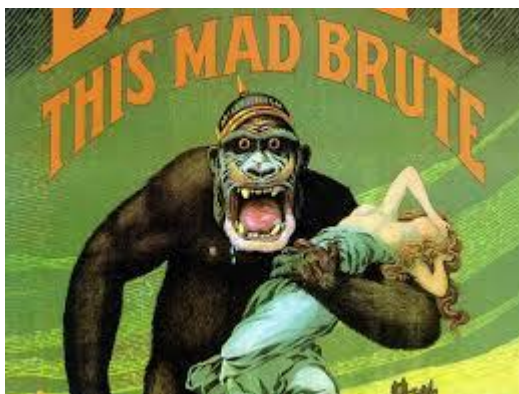
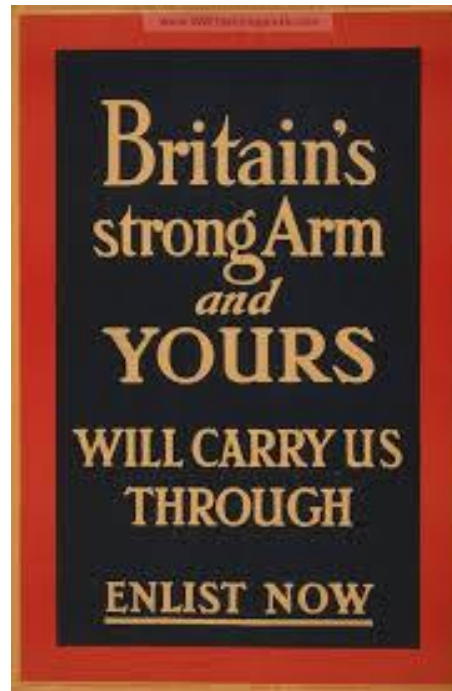


War Poetry

Wilfred Owen

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November 2015





Signing Up

- Discuss with your partner – would you have volunteered to go to war? Why?
- After looking at the posters on the following slide write a sentence to justify which poster you think would have had the biggest impact on you.

Propaganda

- Propaganda was used in WW1 as in any war - and the truth suffered.
- Propaganda ensured that the people only got to know what their governments wanted them to know. In WW1, the lengths to which governments would go to in an effort to blacken the enemy's name reached a new level.
- To ensure that everybody thought in the way the government wanted, all forms of information were controlled. Newspapers were expected to print what the government wanted the reader to read. They printed headlines that were designed to stir up emotions regardless of whether they were accurate or not.

World War 1 Facts

- Find 10 facts about World War 1
- Moving around the class add 10 more facts from what other students found.
- In your own words explain to some one your knowledge of the Great War.

World War 1

1. 1914-1918
2. First known use of chemical weapons (Mustard Gas).
3. Was known as the Great War before WW2 happened as it was supposed to be the war to end all wars.
4. The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand has been blamed as the catalyst for WW1.
5. The sinking of the Lusitania in 1915 bought the US into the war.
6. 58000 British soldiers were lost in the first day at the battle of the Somme.
7. Aviation technology was vastly better after the war than before due to militarists realising the potential of Air to Land conflict.
8. An Armistice was signed ending the war at 5am the conflict ended at 11am on the 11.11.1918.
9. Hitler fought in WW1 in the German Army.
10. Hitler wasn't happy about the armistice which left Germany destitute and lead to him gaining power so WW1 leads into WW2 as nobody managed to learn any lessons from the 6 million deaths involved.

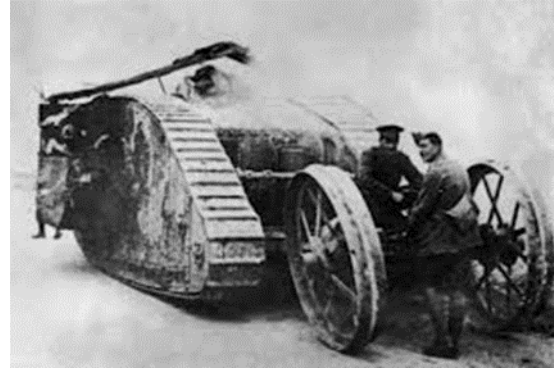
TRENCH WARFARE



WARFARE

- The life in a trench was difficult. Usually a soldiers were deputed for two weeks in the front-line trenches.
- During the day time most of the observations were carried out while the night time was kept for the movement and maintenance.
- The soldiers had to fight not only with enemy but also with the diseases.
- The poor hygiene and sanitary conditions, parasites and the weather (sometimes below zero degree celsius) were causes for some major diseases which eventually gave slow death to the soldiers.
- In addition to this soldiers in the trenches had to cope up with very high psychological pressure.

Types of fighting



Technology revolution

- The strategy was still old fashioned, yet the technology was new, which made things worse and many lost their lives because the officers didn't know how to deal with new technology and old strategy.
- There was the revolution in air warfare. Originally planes were used to spy on the enemy, not for bombing.
- Poison gas was probably the most feared of all weapons in WW1.
 - Poison gas was indiscriminate and could be used in the trenches.
 - A poison gas attack meant soldiers having to put on crude gas masks and if these were unsuccessful, an attack could leave a victim in agony for days and weeks before he finally succumbed to his injuries.


Death by gas



- The development in the use of poison gases led to both phosgene and mustard gas being used as method of fighting.
- Phosgene felt only 48 hours after it had been inhaled and by then it had already bedded itself in the respiratory organs of the body and little could be done to eradicate the gas. By the time that phosgene had got into a person's bodily system, it was too late.
- Mustard gas was first used by the Germans against the Russians at Riga in September 1917. This gas caused both internal and external blisters on the victim within hours of being exposed to it. Such damage to the lungs and other internal organs were very painful and occasionally fatal. Many who did survive were blinded by the gas.

Wilfred Owen

- Wilfred Edward Salter Owen (18 March 1893 – 4 November 1918) was a British poet and soldier, one of the leading poets of the First World War.
- His shocking, realistic war poetry on the horrors of trenches and gas warfare was heavily influenced by his friend *Siegfried Sassoon* and sat in stark contrast to both the public perception of war at the time.
- He was killed in action at the Battle of the Sambre a week before the war ended. The telegram from the War Office announcing his death was delivered to his mother's home as her town's church bells were ringing in the celebration of Armistice when the war ended.



“Above all I am not concerned
with Poetry. My subject is War,
and the pity of War. The Poetry is
in the pity.”

Wilfred Owen