

LEARNING RESOURCES

HEART OF CONFLICT

CORNWALL'S WAR
1914–1918

Not everyone makes
the history books,
but everyone has
a story to tell

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HEART OF CONFLICT

Learning Resources

This learning pack was inspired by **Heart of Conflict** – staged by the charity Bridging Arts.

Heart of Conflict is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and hosted by the Royal Cornwall Museum.

Heart of Conflict looks at Cornwall in World War One and throws a spotlight on ordinary people and their lives during those terrible years. Thousands of men left the county between 1914-1918 to fight the Germans in France and further afield. For those left behind, these were years of privation, anxiety, grief and extraordinary sacrifice.

The exhibition features women who struggled to make ends meet while waiting for their men and sons to return home. Others who worked on the land, in munitions factories and in the mines. It also tells the stories of men forced to stay at home to do vital work such as mining, farming or fishing to keep the war machine going. Visit www.heartofconflict.org.uk to find out more.

At its core is the belief that everyone's heritage and history has meaning.

Not everyone makes the history books, but everyone has a story to tell.

Acknowledgements

Research and Background

We are grateful to all the volunteers who worked so hard in researching Cornwall during World War One. We are also indebted to the families and descendants of the brave men and women who gave their service who shared both their memories and their treasured possessions.

We uncovered more than we ever dared to dream, and we are sure that teachers and students will add to the knowledge by researching their own heritage and writing their own stories to add to the role of Cornwall and her people during the war to end all wars. We look forward to reading these stories over the coming months.

Learning Outcomes

The aim of this pack is to give students an insight into the social history of the period 1914-1918 during World War One. It uses real life stories to explore the themes of:

- Propaganda and censorship
- Hard graft
- Bravery
- Fundraising
- Legacy and loss
- Conscientious objectors

Links to the National Curriculum: (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-history-programmes-of-study>)

- Challenges for the UK, Europe and the wider world 1901 to the present day... this could include: World War One and the Peace Settlement

Aims of the curriculum:

- Understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses
- Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the past have been constructed
- Gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short-and long-term timescales

Learning Objectives

Students will act as 'journalists' working both during the period 1914–1918 and the present day. Using the exhibition as a starting point they will research stories from WW1 to produce their own newspaper, film or radio broadcast. They may choose to focus on stories from the **Heart of Conflict** exhibition, stories from other primary sources such as existing newspapers or official records or second hand accounts by family members or friends.

Journalists working during WW1 were constrained by restrictions imposed by the Government at the time. The Defence of the Realm Act censored stories and reporting that were not considered to be in the national interest. Failure to comply with the restrictions meant arrest and prosecution. The stories written in the style of journalists working at this time will be subject to the same restrictions.

Conversely the same story written by the students working as modern day journalists will not be restricted. This will provide an interesting insight into how current affairs were portrayed in the early 20th century, why these restrictions were put in place and how that affected public morale and opinion.

Timetable:

- Students are given a learning pack in school and arrange themselves into small working groups
- Visit to the museum to see the **Heart of Conflict** exhibition. Students will be given a short tour of the exhibition and then left to explore the stories in their groups. They will be supplied with journalist notebooks to start recording their own story ideas
- Student groups to work in school and independently on research and stories
- Student groups to submit their newspapers or broadcasts to the museum for judging
- Museum to announce the winning story

Using This Pack

The vast archives of the Imperial War Museum (IWM) are a fantastic resource, but it is sometimes hard to pinpoint a specific item. We have therefore listed in the text references to the articles we mention. Simply go to www.iwm.org.uk/collections and paste the reference into the search bar on that page.

Propaganda and Censorship

Ideas for teaching and research

Wider Issues

- The first casualty of war is the truth?
- Effectiveness of poster campaigns (www.iwm.org.uk/history/learning-resources)
- Do they ring true in today's cynical society?
- Sometimes obvious 'reader's' letters in newspapers – 'my young man does not want to enlist...' 'you must shun the shirker' etc. Were they fooling anyone now or then?
- Women used, manipulated and shamed into sending men to war
- Campaigns to shame men at home (white feathers, posters and newspaper articles)
- Spreading fear about 'barbaric' Germans – nicknamed 'the Hun'
- Positive uses of propaganda – raising funds/national pride
- Newspaper reports of female deaths abroad used to stimulate enlistment. No details about massive losses of troops on front line
- Use of censorship of private telegrams, soldiers' letters home and most importantly, the press
- DORA – heavy handed suppression of rights (including Trade Unions – see Finance) or justified?
- Propaganda leaflet air drops by both sides on battlefields

Local Issues

- Recruiting marches playing on fear of a foreign invader and Prussian tyranny: many local men were needed locally (for example in the mines) but there was huge social pressure to enlist
- Effects on local artists as painting, sketching and drawing outdoors forbidden – especially on the coast



Recruiting drives drummed up patriotic fervour and encouraged local men to sign up. Few had ever before strayed more than a few miles from their homes and families Photograph: Royal Cornwall Museum

Propaganda

Propaganda is an effective and multipurpose tool – a government Swiss Army Knife of control. The War Propaganda Bureau was formed in August 1914 and copy writers included H.G. Wells and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The aims were to:

- Promote guilt/inspiration amongst men to enlist
- Generate fear and hatred of the enemy and keeping the war popular
- Keep ‘duty’ in the minds of those at home
- Present the idea that all were sacrificing together
- Mislead the public at home, and potential spies about how well the war was going
- Produce early branding and merchandising to generate a patriotic spirit as well as having economic benefits. For example Toby jugs and toilet paper with the Kaiser’s face on, skittles games with enemy soldiers and a trench football maze game. (IWM EPH 3600.4) (IWM EPH 2579) The Americans renamed everything ‘liberty’ and children began catching ‘liberty measles’.

Women were particularly targeted. At the start of the war they were used to shame or guilt men into enlisting. By the middle of the war they were encouraged to enlist themselves or work for the war effort. During the latter stages of the war, women were required to do their duty, not waste food, deal with rations effectively and buy war bonds out of often meagre incomes.

Specific groups were directly targeted if statistics showed they were under represented – particularly in a location where enlistment numbers were lower. They were made to feel ashamed and guilty.

Campaigns at home employed various methods to shame men who had not enlisted. These included posters, newspaper articles and the use of white feathers given to so-called shirkers.

There was selective reporting of losses. Accounts of the deaths of women overseas were used to fuel hatred and stimulate recruitment while the masses losses of men on the front line often were sporadically unreported.

Censorship and the Defence of the Realm Act

The Defence of the Realm Act or DORA was enacted 8th August 1914 and added to several times during the war. The provisions included:

- Clearing of threatened areas
- Extinction of lights (blackouts)
- Search warrants/arrest warrants for suspicious conduct, giving information, spreading rumours, sedition or disaffection
- Banning the purchase of binoculars
- Banning photographs of bridges, reservoirs, harbours, etc.
- No bonfires, fireworks or flying of kites
- No church bells
- Government take-over of factories, workshops or land for the war effort
- Introduction of British Summer Time (in May 1916)
- Beer and spirits watered down and pub opening hours reduced
- Government censorship of newspapers and other communications
- Nationalisation of industries such as coal, mines, railways, shipping and later, munitions
- The suppression of Trade Unions to prevent strikes
- A ban on sketching of the coast

Correspondence from the Front

Thousands of civilian telegrams were read by the War Office and soldiers' letters home were censored, often with parts heavily crossed out. Men at the Front wrote home very cheery letters, making light of their conditions; perhaps for fear the letter would not be allowed at all, or so as not to worry those at home. They often wrote about how grateful they were for knitted 'comforts' and other treats.

Some Welsh soldiers were not allowed to write home if their loved ones only spoke Welsh as no one could check what they were saying. This would equally be the case for other minority British languages such as Manx, Gallic and Gaelic.

Less well documented is how, during the large scale offensives, soldiers were encouraged to write their wills and many is the household that received a letter beginning 'If you are reading this...' written, no doubt in haste just before going over the top.

Journalists – Reporting Restrictions

DORA censored stories in the press that were deemed to be ‘not in the national interest’. This was to keep up morale and give the illusion that the war was going well. Reports giving details of any deaths and mutilations at munitions factories and other war related workplaces were also banned. Failure to comply with these restrictions meant prosecution. Any journalist found anywhere near the Front line would be arrested. Army Colonel Ernest Swinton wrote many despatches for the British press, called Eye Witness. The troops immediately renamed it Eye Wash.

Following public complaints at the paltry lack of news, the War Office relented and in 1915 it allowed five official journalists to be stationed in an HQ away from the trenches. The Western Front Five were Philip Gibbs, Percival Philips, William Beach Thomas, Henry Perry Robinson and Herbert Russell. They were paid by the War Office, chaperoned and heavily censored, but as long as they didn’t ‘mention any places or people’ they could write what they liked. Some got very creative indeed! Beach Thomas was particularly disliked by the troops for the way his reports were written to make the reader believe he was ‘in the thick of it’ – not sitting safely miles away and in all likelihood with a whisky by the fire.

Beach Thomas was parodied and sent up royally as Teech Bomas in The Wipers Times, the one newspaper that defied attempts at outside control by using humour and parody. Also, as its circulation, at least for the duration of the war, was limited only to the trenches, there was more tolerance.

The paper was ‘accidentally’ started in February 1916 when some soldiers found a printing press in a bombed out building. The name came from the soldier’s mispronunciation of Ypres where the press was found. The Wipers Times contained spoof adverts and articles, songs and poems and cartoons – and infuriated the top brass by sending them up without mercy.

DORA’s Effect on Cornwall

DORA had an adverse effect on artists, including those in St Ives and Newlyn and other parts of Cornwall. No painting or sketching was allowed in the open air, in particular around the coast. This was particularly sensitive in Cornwall, which is vulnerable to unsighted landings by enemy craft in secluded coves and inlets. There was a blanket ban in Cornwall in 1915, following a breach of the rules. Later a few permits were issued.

Any drawings of landmarks sent disguised as a harmless watercolour could be used as a map. The artists had to content themselves with painting indoor subjects or from earlier sketches. Some artists in St Ives employed the Belgian refugees to pose for them.

Photography was in its infancy, and cameras and photographs were expensive, but this too was banned, especially near landmarks and architectural features such as reservoirs, railway tunnels and bridges.

Temperance

Lloyd George said ‘*We are fighting Germans, Austrians and Drink, and so far as I can see the greatest of these deadly foes is Drink*’. Subsequently pub hours were reduced, a heavy tax placed on whisky and beer was watered down. This was all aimed at reducing hangovers and increasing war work output. Even King George V became teetotal. Lord Kitchener followed suit.

Hard Graft

Ideas for teaching and research

Wider Issues

- Rise of women's emancipation and realisation of their abilities
- Perception of females by patriarchy – physical, mental, emotional, worth
- Differences in social class, in particular, comparisons when doing the same job
- Perception of loose morals in women of lower class, but middle/upper class not held to same standards
- The moral standards of the time – women were not to be un-chaperoned or even speak to a man unknown to them
- Parallel how popular newspapers (Mirror etc) concentrated on female's appearance in uniforms and overalls rather than their abilities with today's pressures from all media
- How has history treated the women's achievements?
- Women were newly recruited across all three armed forces – a first in the UK
- Were the parameters of protected male employment wide enough, or too wide?
- Should all trades have been subject to conscription at the same time?
- Why it was important, if unfair, that women surrender their jobs to returning soldiers

Local Issues

- Rural economy over urban economy – migration
- Miners and their role on the Western Front
- Cornwall's mining legacy and munitions
- Farm workers and market gardening in rural landscapes and fighting the 'Food War'
- Legacy of Bal Maidens and the return of females in mining to newer roles (engineers)
- Fishing fleets and re-purposing of fishing vessels – other allied skills; net/sail making
- Work of RNLI without younger generation to man boats



Enthusiastic women signed up to work on the land as men went off to fight on the Front Photograph: A.W. Jordan/Royal Cornwall Museum

Women

World War One coincided with a rise of women's emancipation and realisation of their own abilities. There was still a general perception that women were inferior physically, mentally and emotionally. The moral standards of the time dictated that women were not to be un-chaperoned or even speak to a man unknown to them. It was often thought that women of lower class had loose morals whereas middle and upper class women were not held to the same standards.

Women were first 'recruited' to emotionally blackmail men of fighting age to enlist. This was carried out via propaganda posters and 'letters to the editor' in popular newspapers. (www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/14592)

Women decided they wanted a more active role in a war that must have seemed very close to home. They were newly recruited across all three armed forces which was a first in the UK. Popular newspapers of the day like the Daily Mirror concentrated on female's appearance in uniforms and overalls rather than their abilities. This has an interesting parallel with the way women are portrayed in the media today. Has much changed in a hundred years? How has history treated the women's achievements?

Before the war, nursing was one of the few professions open to women, and many enrolled as nurses to serve at the Front, on canal barges, on hospital ships and trains and in convalescent homes around the UK.



Officers and nurses at an auxiliary – or extra – hospital that opened in Truro in World War One. Thousands of women across the country volunteered for basic medical training to nurse the injured and maimed

Photograph: A.W. Jordan/Royal Cornwall Museum

Women, for the first time in centuries, were sent to the front lines in the newly formed Women's Auxiliary Army Corps. Nearly 10,000 of them worked as clerks and typists, cooks and cleaners, engineers, and drivers. Many already did these same jobs, but on the home front. Subsequently the War Office approved a similar arrangement for the Navy. The Wrens were founded in 1917.

The Wrens were mostly from middle class, and often naval, backgrounds. Some served abroad and at a base on the Isles of Scilly. Their unofficial motto was 'Never at Sea'. The women were asked by Director, Dame Katherine Furse to always be 'Perfect Ladies'.

The Women's Royal Air Force was formed on the same day as the new RAF on 1 April 1918, the only force that showed this parity. The women were recruited for engineering roles as well as plane construction. The wings were made of canvas and would have utilised sail making skills. They were also employed as motor cycle messengers, plane maintenance and the more mundane, but essential, domestic and clerical roles. Around 1,000 of these roles were based abroad.

As all of these roles were non-combatant, the families of the 1,465 women who died, and who are remembered on a memorial in York Minster, were not entitled to a pension or any compensation. (<https://yorkminster.org/first-world-war/memorials-at-york-minster/the-five-sisters-window.html>)

It should be noted that conscription did not apply to females so all those who took part were volunteers, although they were paid for their services. At the end of the war, all women were dismissed. They had however, forged the foundations for resumption of the service in WWII.

Women also flocked to fill the employment gaps in the factories, munitions works, mines and transport on the Home Front. Many were from rural communities, including Cornwall, and travelled long distances to get jobs in the highly paid factories of industrial areas. Georgina Bainsmith, an artist living in St Ives, became a manager in Woolwich Arsenal.

They suffered ridicule for their appearance and had to withstand scurrilous comments about their morals and vitriol for 'freeing a man for the Front' from that man's family. Despite their invaluable contribution to the war effort with the end of hostilities they were expected to return to their former lives without protest.

The Knitting Army

On 18th August 1914, Lord Kitchener and Queen Mary devised the Queen Mary Needlework Guild to 'recruit a knitting army' to help supply the 300,000 pairs of sock that were now urgently required by soldiers fighting at the Front.

The most industrious members earned a medal and certificate for their efforts. Working parties were organised in towns and villages and the large country estates. Women were seen knitting everywhere, even in public parks and on trams. Children of both sexes also knitted during lessons and after school.

Kitchener gave his name to a stitch that turned the heel and toe seamlessly so that soldiers would not get blisters on their long route marches.

A typical pattern – the Kitchener heel-less sock

Cast on 60 sts, 20 each on 3 needles,
K2 p2 rib for 4 ins,
K straight for 6 ins,
K2 p2 rib for 8ins, knit plain for 3 ins
Toe
K1 k2tog, k to end. At third stitch from end k2tog and k last stitch off.
Narrow in this way on each needle.
K6 rows plain, then another narrowing round.
K5 rows plain, then a decrease round
4 plain, then another decrease round
3 plain. Cont until 3 stitch left.
Break thread, knit stitch and pull through
Using darning needle weave back and forth to close opening.

Rowan Knitting, Magazine 56, p 47

The knitters also produced balaclavas, mittens and scarves – known as 'warm comforts'. It was bitterly cold in the trenches and the garments brought physical and emotional comfort.

Some of the girls tucked notes into the socks and occasionally friendships via letters were struck up. This letter writing was strongly encouraged to help 'keep spirits up'.

Women's magazines of the day were full of not just knitting patterns but sewn garments including shirts and hankies. Patterns for pyjamas were presumably for soldiers recovering from their injuries in hospitals.

Some fun was poked at the knitting army, but certainly not by the soldiers. When the mainly Cornish 25th Field Ambulance arrived in Estaires on the 18th November, they dealt with over 300 cases of frostbitten feet in the first week. Some men only had straw stuffed in their boots. The knitting army also helped the war effort as producing these garments in the home freed up a factory to provide other essential war items.

Protected Employment

Many of the men that remained behind in 1914 were in 'protected employment'. These were considered jobs that were vital to the nation. They included on the industrial level; mining, train and tram driving, farming and food production, engineering, road building, and leatherwork, including boot making, saddle making for military (so called 'black leatherwork') and harness and saddles for working horses ('brown leatherwork'). (<http://contentdm.warwick.ac.uk/cdm/ref/collection/tav/id/5338>)

For the 'Administrative Classes' – almost exclusively the rich – they stayed in the UK undertaking work in government ministries, including high ranking officers in the War Office, banking, clerical work and land management for those with large estates. They often received white feathers in the post.

Working Conditions

Working conditions were regulated by the Factories Act 1901, but during the war, they deteriorated. Many factory inspectors had enlisted and safety standards were often not as strictly adhered to. Due to censorship imposed by DORA, munitions workers deaths either went unreported, or, if the explosion was so noticeable (some up to 100 miles away) reported in reassuring tones about damage to buildings only. In serious cases, many workers died and were only identifiable by the numbered tags they wore around their necks. Women continued working valiantly, often the very next day, despite the risks.

It was not only explosions that killed or machinery that caused injuries. Even though deaths by poisoning (TNT and lead) were 'notifiable industrial diseases', they too were censored by DORA. Cancers caused by build-up of the toxic chemical cocktails were also recorded later in the war.



By 1916, three million women were working in formerly male occupations to support the war effort as the nation's men went off to fight. Photograph: Royal Cornwall Museum

In contrast, the deaths of nurses and serving female personnel were reported widely. These deaths had huge propaganda value and were used to keep levels of outrage high and therefore retain some public support. In some cases this resulted in a spike in enlistment figures too. A good example of this is the story of the nurse Edith Cavell. Edith nursed wounded soldiers on the Front, regardless of nationality. She received criticism by many at the time for helping the enemy German and Austrian soldiers. Edith worked to smuggle injured Allied soldiers into neutral Holland. The German Officials grew suspicious and Edith was arrested. Following interrogation she, along with 35 others was sent to trial. Most were sentenced to hard labour. However, despite international pressure for mercy, Edith was shot by a German firing squad. Her execution received worldwide condemnation and extensive press coverage.

This contrasted with the lack of reporting the loss of troops, although lists of those dead, wounded and the missing were published on notice boards.

Children and the War

MI5 used Girl Guides to relay messages from Marconi Wireless Telegraphs between departments. There was a special MI5 Guides Unit. They paraded every morning on the roof of Waterloo Building. MI5 had started with Scouts, but found them too boisterous, so they were replaced by girls.

Instead the Scouts were used to guard vulnerable structures such as railway bridges and tunnels, dams and reservoirs and telegraph wires. Later in 1917, they used a bugle to sound the all clear after an air raid. Prior to this, it was a policeman on a bike with a sign round his neck. (IWM FEQ 177)

Sea Scouts had several roles too; coast watch being among the most important. They also retrieved and recorded any wreckage they found.

All of them worked on the land or allotments helping to grow fruit and vegetables. They collected salvage, and in one failed experiment, collected thousands of conkers to try to make acetone. They were also highly successful in raising funds for various different causes.

Many children had little or no spare time for scouts or guides, as an estimated 600,000 of them left school at 12, the leaving age at that time, to work in the factories or as farm labourers. (<http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/10-ways-children-took-part-in-the-first-world-war>)

Bravery

Ideas for teaching and research

Wider Issues

- First mechanised war – different kind of traumatic injuries
- Prisoners of war and their treatment
- No man's land – responsible for deaths (unable to retrieve)
- Unsanitary conditions
- Cramped and crowded – disease spreading
- Weakened, starved men – facilitated spread of Spanish influenza

Local Issues

- Men of the 25th Field Ambulance
- Local doctors/nurses contributions to medical journals
- Convalescent homes
- Poor rural workers had limited access to doctor/dentist
- Difficulties faced by war disabled labourers/fishermen in rural areas (compare urban opportunities)

25th Field Ambulance

Many of the men who were part of the 25th Field Ambulance in the Royal Army Medical Corps had worked at Dolcoath mine near Redruth, or were volunteers with the St John's Ambulance before the war. Many of them lived in the Camborne and Redruth areas, some living in the same street and would have probably known each other for years. Many of them kept up a cheery correspondence with their old boss, William James, throughout. Even though they must have seen dreadful horrors including the recount of helping with an arm amputation the letters home are relentlessly cheerful and newsy but without giving anything away. They even talk of aerial battles between airships overhead.

A Field Ambulance (FA) was a highly organised and structured unit, further subdivided into three units. Within each unit there were officers, Non-commissioned Officer (NCOs), buglers, wagon orderlies, stretcher bearers, quartermasters, cooks, drivers and sometimes cyclists. They were responsible for sanitation and laundry. The majority of the company were stretcher bearers, on standby a few hundred yards behind the Regimental Aid Post which provided first aid. Stretcher bearers were very close to the front line and were themselves often shelled. They were not armed and were frequently fired upon with no means of defending themselves. They were extremely diligent and caring, often praised for the ingenious ways they found of making seriously injured men as comfortable as possible. Their job was to retrieve the wounded from the trenches or No Man's Land and relay them back to the Advanced Dressing Stations (ADS) and then further back to the out of shell range Casualty Clearing Stations (CCS Buildings). Buildings requisitioned as hospitals were, for practical reasons, further back. As they had to collect wounded from No Man's Land, they were sometimes in advance of their own soldiers, and they bravely battled through the awful mud to carry men on heavy canvas and wood stretchers in all weathers. Many received medals for outstanding bravery.

Surgeries were supposed to take place in the hospitals, but the nature of the wounds and the sheer numbers meant that live saving operations often took place in the CCS tents.

The RAMC or Royal Army Medical Corps was divided into Field Ambulances. This was not a vehicle, but the name given to a mobile front line unit. This unit was attached to a division of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). The mostly Cornish 25th Field Ambulance was attached to the 8th Division BEF, and underwent basic training, drills and musketry. They were based at Salisbury Plain and then marched to Southampton to take a ship out to France. They landed on 5th November 1914 and set up camp in Estaires a day later. By the end of the week, they had treated 300 cases of frostbite.

When men enlisted, they were given an army number between four and five digits long. Then if they had medical skills and/or showed an interest in the medical corps, they were given a second, longer, number as the RAMC was a territorial force.

The men would have been given an Army medical to check for fitness. Pre-war health care was limited and NHS dental treatment was in its infancy. Many recruits had been previously rejected during the Boer War for poor dental health.

World War One was the first mechanised war, with machine guns, tanks, air raids, artillery guns killing vast numbers in any day. As such, the medical staff had to deal with not only devastating wounds, but vast numbers of them at the same time. This was a test to their skill and dedication. Many doctors and nurses wrote articles for their professional journals. Dr William Blackwood of the 25th FA wrote an article in February 1916 for the Medical Society on the treatment of war wounds. (<https://jramc.bmj.com/content/27/2/230.full.pdf+html>)

It was also the time that Shell Shock was officially recognised as a medical affliction and recorded in a scientific journal by Charles Myers. He thought that suppressing feelings of fear and trauma, which the men needed to do in order not to be accused of cowardice, transferred from mental distress to physical symptoms, such as blindness, paralysis and deafness in severe cases. These men were often accused of malingering and many barely functioning, were sent back 'up the line'. It is not recorded how many of those returned to the Front survived in their depleted state.

Some men were allowed to go home to recover from their injuries before returning. Some of these men were infuriated to be handed a white feather during that time – surely the ultimate insult. Others were more serious cases and sent to convalesce at homes requisitioned or volunteered of which many were in Cornwall, for example Heligan.

The war was by necessity a time of incredible invention and some of the most significant advances for the public were those discoveries in medical treatments, including blood transfusions and improved surgery techniques. Discoveries included how to treat blood in order to store it. However, nothing was yet known about different blood groups. Splints for broken femurs were developed as it was realised a broken leg could actually kill a man. Mobile X-ray machines were used to help locate bullet fragments and diagnose fractures. (<http://www.bl.uk/learning/cult/bodies/xray/roentgen.html>)

Old fashioned remedies were used too, for example the use of lint covered packets of Sphagnum moss which was used to soak up fluids from wounds. Much of the moss was collected from the Duchy Estate, and it doubtless saved countless lives by keep wounds dry and clean. (<http://blog.maryevans.com/2014/03/conscientious-objectors-sphagnum-moss-dressings-the-duchy-of-cornwall-estate-during-the-great-war.html>)

However, many more lives could have been saved. Many men died of infections and tetanus. Most of the wounds were infected almost immediately, not least because the battle grounds had previously been well manure-fertilised farm fields. Rats were also a constant presence, spreading diseases like Weil's Disease. Antibiotics were not identified until 1928 and inoculations had not been available to medical staff. (<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/broughttolife/themes/war/warzone>)

Prisoners of War

The Germans apparently made no formal plans for Prisoner of War camps. The first captured soldiers had to build their own accommodation. Prisoners were taken, in a rather ad hoc arrangement, to the former training ground of the battalion that captured them. This is probably what happened to the men of the 25th Field Ambulance. They were taken prisoner (as far as records allow us to tell) on 27th/28th May during the German Spring Offensive of 1918. These 'nineteen-fourteeners' (men were sometimes categorised amongst themselves according to their enlistment dates) were finally split up after four long, difficult and emotional years together at the Front and it must have been traumatic. As protected personnel, RAMC men were not supposed to be taken prisoner, and should have been released as soon as their status was confirmed. We know that some of the 25th Field Ambulance were not, and only returned home after being repatriated in December 1918 or later.

Finances

Ideas for teaching and research

Wider Issues

- Costs of war in monetary terms
- Businesses that make money and those that lose out
- Raising funds from public
- Charities and scams
- Pensions and duty of government to citizens

Local Issues

- New concept of savings schemes for less well off
- Migration to urban areas for work
- Were local mines reopened that were previously considered uneconomical?
- Did the collapse of some large country estates after the war harm the wider community?
- St Ives artists and Belgian refugees

HEART OF CONFLICT

For any government of any country, war is extremely expensive. In the case of the World War One, the British army more than doubled in the first year. There was kit to buy and supply, guns and weapons, food, horses (food for horses) medical equipment, and lastly, men to pay. At a rough estimate, the UK's military expenditure 1913 to 1918 was £2.4bn. Not that the food was always edible! (IWM Q 1766) (IWM EPH 1513) (IWM EPH 9028)

In the wider economy, some businesses saw a drop off of demand and would fail if they could not adapt to exploit new opportunities. Those businesses that diversified were clothing manufacturers who got War Office contracts to supply uniforms, and a pen manufacturer who retrained his workforce to produce medical instruments. Of course mines that might have previously been considered uneconomical had new values as tin was required. Saddlers and leatherworkers were required to make army saddles, boots and belts.

As the war progressed, both the government and some individuals began to recognise various needs amongst the poorer communities. It was usually women who stepped up to raise funds for benevolent needs or practical necessities. Some of the campaigns were as follows:

Egg Days – A very popular national campaign with even children giving up an egg one day a week for wounded soldiers and sailors.



Flag Days– Flags were offered at a penny each, but many gave threepence and even more. In 1917 the Daily Mail reported that £4,000,000 had been raised.

Variations on flag days with specific localised aims included Lifeboat day, Lamp Day – in aid of hospitals – and Our Day for the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John in October.

Smokers Fund Day– Known as ‘gaspers’ to officers and ‘fags’ to the men, cigarettes formed part of a soldier’s rations! The fundraising was to provide cigarettes for wounded servicemen. But just as you think it can’t get worse, consider that the cigarettes were wrapped in lead!

Vegetable Day– Collect vegetables for wounded service men.

In St Ives, some of the artists formed the Belgian Relief Fund, as well as helping and homing Belgian refugees. These included Millie Dow, Herbert Lanyon, Moffat Linder, Edgar Skinner, Lizzie Whitehouse, Mary Camerson, Joshua Daniel and Caroline Pazolt.

Not all charity ventures were so honest, and on occasions some rather unscrupulous types scammed the public by keeping, if not all, a good percentage of the cash raised.

Economising

Later on, salvage was also important – paper, glass, clothing, jars, metal (including the lead from cigarette packets) and ‘pig food’. Possibly the UK’s first waste recycling centre was in Hackney where the council installed an ‘experimental sorting grid at a cost of £150’.

Children were encouraged to collect conkers for the war effort in the autumn of 1917. The conkers were processed to extract acetone, which was used to make cordite for use in the munitions industry. The scheme was scrapped as the acetone was not of suitable quality. Children in Germany had to collect nettles as the fibres were spun to make clothing.

Rationing was introduced in 1918 and was not limited to food; coal and gas were also rationed along with petrol.

The wearing of new, expensive clothes was considered ‘unpatriotic’ and the wearing of older clothes was actively encouraged. Here, dry cleaners began to market their services, offering cleaning and repairs. ‘Standard Clothing’ was introduced and the newly teetotal King was pressed into service again, ordering a brown suit while in Leeds at a cost of £2 17s 6d (it is not recorded when he ever wore it). Compare this to an average good quality suit that might be bought by the middle classes costing £8 or more. (Art. IWM PST 10122)

Organised Savings Schemes

The government were in need of private capital and at the start of the war introduced War Loans targeted at rich investors. It paid a good interest (between 3.5%-5%) and the three schemes were run in response to need; November 1914, June 1915 and January 1917. They were marketed with a poster campaign and had a very patriotic persuasion.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the government could no longer afford 5% and offered investors their money back ‘at par’. They also offered an alternative scheme at 3.5%. Although most money was reclaimed, £1.9bn was rolled into the new scheme.

In 1916, the National War Savings Committee was formed and in a year it had 26,500 War Savings Associations throughout the country representing two million members. These groups were formed around churches, schools, factories, warehouses, shops and even the armed forces themselves.

The working classes were on the whole earning more, so the government introduced War Savings Certificate, ostensibly to teach them about money management, but obtaining money from a new untapped source was probably a bigger driving force. They were introduced in June 1916 and offered a £1 certificate for 15s 6d, redeemable no sooner than five years later. There was a £500 limit of certificates per individual. These were very attractive as they offered an excellent rate of interest and were a great way of helping the war effort. By the end of the war, the British public held £207m of certificates, and they were so popular, they morphed into National Savings Certificates which continued for many years. (IWM PST 10408)

HEART OF CONFLICT

War Bonds were introduced in 1917. They were a minimum of £5, so as an average factory worker got between £1 and £5, it was a scheme intended for middle classes or smaller businesses. They too were a five year minimum, but there was a 10 year option that paid a better rate of interest. These Bonds could be used at their face value to buy into a different scheme, such as a War Loan, or even to pay off death duties and taxes instead of using cash.

Businesses were often struggling with the loss of skilled, experienced personnel, shortages of some raw materials and up to 300% increases in prices of materials that were available.

Income tax doubled during the war and increases in working class wages meant that two million more people reached the threshold where they had to pay tax.

Profit duty was also introduced for companies who already had the high prices and wages to contend with. But the relentless government war machine need ever more money and the £1bn raised in 1919 was nowhere near enough to plug the national debt. By 1920 National Debt had reached £7.9bn.

The Trade Unions had agreed with the government not to strike under the terms of DORA. However, late in the war, in 1918, the police in London went on strike for better pay, benefits and war bonuses. They also wanted official recognition for their union, NUPPO. The Prime Minister, Lloyd George gave into their monetary demands, but not to union recognition. Lloyd George was also deeply upset when Welsh miners went on strike in the same year for a higher share of the mine profits.

Despite the urgent need, engineers in Birmingham and munitions workers all over the country also went on strike for more pay. Winston Churchill threatened to withdraw their protected status and send them to the Front. They returned to work.

All these striking workers were reminded by others to remember their 'privileges as well as their grievances' and that they earned £4-£6 per week, while soldiers in the trenches, being shelled day and night, earned a shilling a day.

There were suspicions that the strikes were the idea of socialists and anti-war campaigners. However, it could also have been a genuine desire to share more of the profits. It is a fact, universally acknowledged, that war has always made a privileged few very rich indeed.

Landships

The writer of Eye Witness (Eye Wash) reports, Colonel Ernest Swinton, had seen tractors towing a heavy artillery gun, an idea earlier dismissed by the War Office. But at this stage of the war, Winston Churchill was quite keen on a 'land ship'. It needed to be light enough not to get bogged down in the Flanders mud.

Fosters of Lincoln made the best design however, the chairman, Mr Triton lost some of his 350 highly skilled men who had felt compelled to enlist as many had been handed white feathers. But because the project was top secret, his workers could not wear the silver badge showing their exemption for vital war work. Eventually the War Badge Department supplied the badges and Fosters ended up employing over 2,000 men and women on the production lines.

The term 'tank' was to try and fool the enemy into thinking the machine was a harmless water tank.

HEART OF CONFLICT

The tanks were expensive, but being a world first, they really inspired the British public. The government, who rarely missed such an opportunity started The Tank Bank. It started in Trafalgar Square, London when a tank called Egbert was used as a gimmick to sell bonds and saving certificates. A female bank teller sat inside behind a desk and sold the bonds by the thousands. It was so successful that five other beat-up retiree tanks (Julian, Old Bill, Nelson, Drake and Iron Rations) joined Egbert on a nationwide tour. They were treated like rock stars, and before their arrival a little show which included climbing a man-made hill and crashing through barbed wire, planes dropped leaflets announcing the time and date. Some towns raised the equivalent of £20-30 per head of capita – equivalent to six months wages at the lower end of the scale. It became a competition and the winning town would receive a tank. Many towns were awarded a tank at the end of the war for their efforts.



Many towns were awarded tanks at the end of the war for their efforts Photograph: Royal Cornwall Museum

War Widows and Pensions

Soldiers were paid on a daily basis at around 1s per day, a practical, if callous, arrangement considering life expectancy. A pension fund of a penny a day (again, practical but harsh) was introduced in 1917. This was only for combatant roles – which was really harsh considering the number of RAMC, nursing and female ancillary staff that were also literally in the firing line and died in their thousands. (http://www.1914-1918.net/pay_1914.html)

Benefits for widows started as charitable giving and were heavily dependent on what the trustees considered were worthy and legitimate cases. Soldiers needed permission to marry before the war but they didn't always ask first. These widows were not considered for a pension. The military-focused charities were the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation (RPFC) and Soldiers and Sailors Family Association (SSFA). They were undoubtedly vital for some, but whether a family received money was dependant on whether the, usually, middle class administrator deemed them suitable, worthy and respectable.

Even soldiers had to draw down pay according to their needs from their upper class senior officers, who kept their accounts for them. Money, it seems, for the lower classes was always dependant on class patriarchy.

HEART OF CONFLICT

Most of the 750,000 men that joined up in August and September 1914 were single – but not all. Some married men, who believed it would ‘all be over by Christmas’ also signed up thinking that a few months would not be too much of a stretch for their families.

Later, the War Office realised that leaving their families destitute was not an option for men with dependants so the new Ministry of Pensions was formed in December 1916, Separation Allowance was introduced. This was set at a higher rate than a widow’s pension (5s per week, with any top up they could obtain from SSFA); the rationale being that a pension would have to be paid for longer and that a widow could move to smaller premises. The average required living allowance of the day was calculated at 20s (reports by Seebohm Rowntree and Charles Booth). After criticism, the Ministry raised pensions to 10s per week. (www.rowntreesociety.org.uk/seebohm-rowntree-and-poverty/) (<http://booth.lse.ac.uk/>)

The allowance was usually set according to what had been paid before the war, to a maximum of 20s. The soldier contributed one third, deducted from his pay and the government made up the difference.

If a soldier committed suicide his family would not receive a pension. Likewise if he was killed in action or died of a disease that was considered his own fault. If a soldier lived for seven years after receiving a war wound, no pension was payable. The same was true if he was shot for cowardice. The pension was 10s, but an officer’s widow with 3 children could get up to £5 per week.

After the war, many stately homes and large country estates had lost the power they had over their immediate community. Many of the aristocratic heirs and their staff had died in the war, or had not returned for other reasons. Death duties, land tax and increased income taxes were crippling the estates financially. Coal and gas were rationed, and heating huge houses was near impossible. Heligan was used as a hospital during the war, and it declined steadily thereafter. (<http://heligan.com/the-story/introduction/>)

Legacy and Loss

Ideas for teaching and research

Wider Issues

- Consider loss in its widest terms; not just death – also injuries, emotional, reputation, financial, individual and collective rights
- No welfare state or compensation for loss of some loved ones
- For non-combatants, no pension
- Severe economic post war depression – no jobs or jobs with reduced pay
- Loss of jobs for women once men returned ('For the Duration') – perhaps they were now the sole wage earner
- Loss of status and reputation for some of the women workers (WAACs)
- Only 50 villages did not lose members of the community
- More females than males post war
- Change in voting laws
- Change in divorce laws
- Treaty of Versailles versus Wilson's 14 point plan or UDC – what did this mean for the defeated nations?

Local Issues

- Only one 'Thankful Village' in Cornwall – Herodsfoot
- Effect of war on Heligan Gardens and other large houses that lost many staff
- Long term economic effects on the county
- Loss of tourism for a while
- Artists were unable to produce landscape paintings



Few families had the consolation of loved ones being buried at home. There are barely 45 World War One graves in Cornwall. One is that of Private Joseph Martin, who died of wounds at Bagthorpe Military Hospital, and was buried at home in Stithians Church graveyard Photograph: Hannah Wright/Bridging Arts

The death of family members and friends was – of course – a devastating loss. Loss also took the form of life changing injuries such as the loss of a limb, blindness, wounds that never fully healed, lung damage from gas attacks, brain injuries, and severe depression.

Many did not want to go back to their former lives, and in many cases they were physically no longer able to do the hard labour and long hours of work in service or agriculture. Because of the surplus of job hunters, employers paid very poorly and people had to be grateful for anything. The war had an economic cost in many nations immediately following the war, which lasted in the UK until the 1930s. In some parts of the country, unemployment was up to 70%. There was no welfare state and returning soldiers were sometimes reduced to selling song sheets on the streets to survive.

Women were forced to leave their relatively well paid jobs once the men returned home. For widows, this would have caused serious hardship as an army pension was only 10s per week. Pensions were only introduced at a penny a day from 1917, and were not for non-combatant units, which of course included the female recruits.

The 50,000 women who joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps were often refused work after the war as they had been un-chaperoned during their time at the Front with soldiers. There was no evidence that these women had acted improperly, but their low social status seemed to ensure malicious rumours about promiscuity. Middle class women doing the same or similar roles were not subjected to these slurs on their characters.

HEART OF CONFLICT

An estimated 800,000 British men died during World War I; that was equivalent to 9% of the male population under the age of 45. Nearly 50% of the male population of age, joined up in some way. Just over 6,000 of these were Cornish, and only one village in Cornwall, Herodsfoot saw all service personnel return. These villages became known as 'Thankful Villages'. If all the male members of a particular family were killed in action without leaving descendants, whole bloodlines would have been wiped out.

The result of the huge losses was 'surplus women' as the newspapers put it. This was more acute in the middle classes as the average life expectancy of junior officers was six weeks, and there were numerically more working class people than those who were well off.

In 1918, what was recorded as 'trench fever' by the RAMC, developed in 1919 into the 'Spanish' Flu pandemic, killing an estimated 50 million people worldwide and infecting many more. Due to reporting restrictions imposed by DORA, details of the effect the illness was having amongst troops was censored, but reporters could give details regarding the neutral country of Spain; hence it was thought the epidemic had originated there. The high mortality rate was due to many factors; the virulence of the virus, the weakness and compromised immune systems of soldiers and prisoners of war from poor rations and terrible, cramped conditions, and, at the end of the war massive repatriation of infected troops. As the troops returned to their home nations, they travelled with other nationalities on crowded public transport, spreading the virus quickly and extensively.

During the 1914-1918 war, nothing was known of the mental effects of such prolonged trench warfare. At first these effects, named 'shell shock' by the men, were thought to be physical, probably a brain injury, then often callously treated as cowardice. A total of 306 British and Commonwealth soldiers were court martialled and shot as cowards; a good number of these were probably suffering from what we now call Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

In 2006 all these men finally received a posthumous pardon after a very long and bitter campaign by their descendants. There is now a Shot at Dawn memorial, showing a young man in a blindfold tied to a stake, in the National Arboretum in Staffordshire. (www.thenma.org.uk)

Many political changes occurred as a direct result of the war. In particular, the 1918 Representation of the People Act, under which nearly all property qualification for men was abolished. Women over 30 (who met minimum property qualifications) were eligible to vote.

These changes saw the size of the electorate triple from 7.7 million to 21.4 million with women now making up 43% of the electorate.

Men who were conscientious objectors during the war lost the vote for five years. If they were imprisoned because of their stance, they had no income unless they were independently wealthy. Many job adverts after the war specifically barred Conscientious Objectors from applying. (<http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/parliament-and-the-first-world-war/>)

Following the 'War to End All Wars' the victorious sides imposed conditions of peace known as the Treaty of Versailles which was signed on 28th June 1919, exactly five years after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Germany was made to take the blame for the war, make financial reparations and surrender territory. Germany was humiliated and financially ruined, and some now believe that these conditions were the reason for Hitler's rise to power.

Woodrow Wilson's 14 point plan was devised in January 1918 and aimed to bring about peace and future stability, however, the speech was made without consultation with the allied powers of Europe. Wilson was not in attendance at the Paris Peace Conference as he was ill with flu, and so most of his suggestions were overridden. (<http://www.cornwallswarhistory.co.uk/>) (<http://www.rmg.co.uk/discover/explore/british-summer-time-and-daylight-saving>)

Conscientious Objectors

Ideas for teaching and research

Wider Issues

- Different kinds of bravery
- Integrity, ethics, beliefs
- Class and social strata
- Was this an 'Imperialist War'?
- Poor men fighting for rich men's benefit – an extension of domestic servitude – but the price could be death or serious injury (unable to work – no social security system)
- Was the war itself justified and legal?
- Was the war well managed? If the catastrophic losses were due to ineptitude was it morally acceptable to force more men to go to the Front?
- What were the consequences of not conscripting men to go to the Front and fighting with the depleted army?
- The UK was the first country to give legal recognition to individual conscience – the beginning of human rights
- Therefore should more have been done to protect this right (were the local tribunals up to the task)?
- Was the clause in the Bill recognised at the time as being so important?
- What did the stand-off between military and the COs achieve in terms of numbers that served at the Front?
- What was the government's legal obligation if a CO was killed once he had been literally forced into the army – was it worth it?
- What effects the actions of Emmeline Pankhurst and the pro-war suffragettes have during conscription?
- Should a CO who was denied exemption and ordered to the Front line be honoured in death? Should his name appear on a war memorial? Should he get a posthumous medal?
- How did the public go from hating COs to at least 10 becoming MPs at future General elections? What changed?
- Link the Anti-war efforts and Keir Hardie's comments of 1914 with the Stop the War Coalition and the second Iraq war nearly 100 years later

Local Issues

- Of the 16,000 COs only 64 were from Cornwall, what does this say about:
 - Pay and social conditions
 - A sense of duty for the whole of the UK?
 - The number of protected jobs available? (agriculture, mining, navy, etc)

The historical image of World War One shows the British ‘tommie’ enlisting in thousands and cheerfully marching off to war. The horror of the trenches is also fairly well documented as historians have constructed the reality from the Regimental Diaries. Less common is the in-depth analysis of the failings of the ruling classes in terms of military strategy and also the draconian laws and conditions imposed on British subjects. Perhaps national pride will not allow, but it is also true that many such records were deliberately destroyed.

What we know of the sometimes barbaric treatment of Conscientious Objectors comes not from official records but from The No-Conscription Fellowship.

An anti-war rally was held in Trafalgar Square on 2nd August 1914 which 15,000 people attended.

War was declared two days later despite much opposition in Parliament; Charles Trevelyan (Education) John Burnes (Local Government) and John Morley (Secretary of State for India) all resigned in protest.

Keir Hardie, writing in ‘Labour Leader’ stated ‘Ten Million Socialist and Labour voters in Europe, without a trace or vestige of power to stop the war! ... Our demonstrations and speeches and resolutions are all alike futile. We have no means of hitting the warmongers. We simply do not count.’ Potentially this could have been the root of pacifist and anti-war movements.

September 1914 saw the formation of the Quakers Ambulance Unit (later Friends Ambulance Unit – FAU). In November 1914 the No-Conscription Fellowship (N-CF) was launched. Membership rose to 12,000 in a few months from members who included socialists, Quakers, Methodists and primitive Methodists. This organisation is responsible for any existing records of the treatment of COs – official records were ordered destroyed at the end of the war.

In April 1915, a Women’s Peace Congress was held with 1,200 women from 12 different countries attending.

The regular Army numbered 750,000 before the war. By January 1915 another one million volunteers had enlisted. By the end of the war an estimated 800,000 British soldiers died and many more were injured or invalided out of the services.

In June 1915 National Registration Bill (known as the Derby Scheme) which became law on 8 July 1915, required all British civilians aged 15-65 to register giving name, address, marital status and occupation. This revealed five million men of military age had not volunteered. However, when those in essential work were discounted, numbers reduced to 1.8 million. Recruiting Officers began canvassing, but it only produced another 340,000 new recruits.

By December 1915 British casualties (including dead and missing) reached 528,227.

Despite intensive lobbying and objections, the Military Service Bill passed on its third reading and became law on 28th January 1916. It was implemented on 2 March 1916 and all single men aged 18-41 (excluding exemptions) were required to report for duty. The first arrests of Conscientious Objectors were in April 1916.

There were four grounds for exemption:

- Exempted for work of national importance
- Serious hardship to immediate family
- Illness or infirmity
- Conscientious Objection

Exemption could be temporary, conditional or absolute.

During the passage of the Bill in the House of Lords, Lord Courtney of Penwith (b. Penzance) demonstrated a very clear understanding of conscientious objection, asking that the relevant clause should read 'conscientious objection to undertake any service or engage in any activity in support of the war or to the undertaking of combatant service.' However, he was unsuccessful and the original wording remained 'conscientious objection to undertaking combatant service,' thereby leading to a great deal of suffering by genuine COs.

Conscientious Objectors could roughly be divided into two camps:

Absolutists – Not prepared to undertake any service or co-operate with the State. The Military Service was completely unprepared for this and therefore these men served a series of lengthy jail terms in HM prisons.

Alternativists – Prepared to undertake alternative service, providing it was not in opposition to their beliefs. Some refused to do anything that helped 'the war machine', even medical orderly, working in military stores or in munition factories.

Statistics

All official records were destroyed, so data concerning the Conscientious Objectors has been reconstructed from the Conscientious Objectors Bureau and records of the N-CF.

- 16,000 applied for exemption from combat on the grounds of Conscientious Objection
- 1,200 COs refused to even apply as they vehemently disagreed with every part of the process
- 2,086 local tribunals were set up to hear cases around the country. There were 86 regional appeals tribunals and 1 central tribunal

In Cornwall there were five tribunals, and those in Falmouth and Helston defied regulations and held hearings in private, keeping the public out.

A total of 6,500 were given exemption on the grounds that they would undertake work of national importance. Of those 4,000 accepted this exemption and 1,600 joined the FAU, RAMC or War Victims Relief Committee.

However, 8,000 appeals were denied.

Of these 5,500 were ordered into non-combatant roles in the newly set up Non-Combatant Corps. They were not released from service until 1920. A further 2,500 were sent to combatant units with an estimated 2,000 losing their lives during the conflict.

Under a scheme known as 'cat and mouse' 6,100 COs were sent to prison – some up to five times.

One prisoner died choking to death while being force fed during a hunger strike.

During their sentence 4,000 chose to take up The Home Office Scheme in work camps of which there was one in Dartmoor. There were more freedoms, but conditions were so harsh, many left to go back to prison.

Twenty-seven died on the Scheme and three were diagnosed insane.

In all the Allied countries, 73 conscientious objectors died at the hands of their own governments.

At Armistice in November 1918, a thousand COs were still in prison and were not to be released for several months between April and August 1919.

HEART OF CONFLICT

Many Quakers were legally obliged to return from volunteering on the front lines and had to appear before a tribunal and then went back to their voluntary role in the FAU. Some however, were so incensed that they were now ordered to do what they had volunteered for, refused and ended up in prison.

400 were granted absolute exemption on the grounds that they would not kill – most were Quakers. However, in Market Bosworth, all members of the local Hunt were granted full exemption!

Despite the public hatred of the COs, and the difficulty in getting employment after the war, something must have changed as ten went on to become Members of Parliament.

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