

Everyday Lives in War

ISSUE #3/2018

First World War Engagement Centre
Newsletter



MISSED THE EXHIBITION?

Don't despair: our wonderful book inspired by Käthe Buchler's exhibited photographs is in the printing press and will soon be here! See more on page 3.

Also INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- News & Events from the Centre
- Update from the *Everyday Lives in War* Team
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- Sharing our Stories & A Place to Connect



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

Hosted by:

**University of
Hertfordshire UH**

That is the feeling we were left with at the *Everyday Lives in War* Centre as we waved farewell (but hopefully au revoir) to the trucks carrying Käthe Buchler's photographs back to their home at Photomuseum in Braunschweig, Germany.

We were so privileged to be part of the touring exhibition of Buchler's WW1 photographs – which gave rise to a number of wonderful community workshops and quiet personal reflections. Here Aroona Shaukat, an ardent exhibition visitor who was deeply moved by the 100-year-old images, provides a wonderful insight into both the public and the private world of Frau Käthe Buchler...



"Käthe Buchler with her son, Walther", c. 1903

©Estate of Käthe Buchler – Museum für Photographie Braunschweig/ Deposit Stadtarchive Braunschweig

Beyond the Battlefields: The Woman behind the lens

By Aroona Shaukat

The free 'Beyond the Battlefields' exhibition, which officially launched at the University of Hertfordshire on 21 March, and ran until 5 May at the [Art and Design Gallery](#), was the last stop of the exhibition's unprecedented tour in the UK. This rare and unique opportunity enabled audiences to engage with Käthe Buchler's work depicting life in Germany, before, during and after the First World War.

This ground-breaking exhibition marked the first time a significantly large collection of images by Käthe Buchler had been displayed outside of Germany. The exhibition was a collaboration between AHRC-funded research engagement centres [Everyday Lives in War](#) (University of Hertfordshire), and [Voices of War and Peace](#) (University of Birmingham) working with the Museum Für Photographie, Braunschweig, [UH Arts](#), and Departure Lounge.

'COMPOSED AND CHARACTERFUL'

Buchler's collection is celebrated for capturing composed and characterful stills of soldiers, women and children going about their day to day activities against the backdrop of the uncertainties and challenges of war.

Sarah Lloyd, Director of Everyday Lives in War and Heritage Hub, explains why Käthe Buchler's legacy is instrumental in bringing communities together - something that the University of Hertfordshire seeks to do.

She said: 'Buchler's photographs have a tendency to do their own persuading, so we immediately saw how an exhibition might stimulate the communities we work with, as well as ourselves, to bridge the gulf of time and historic lines of conflict. We're committed to projects in which researchers from all walks of life work alongside one another. Through enthusiasm and cooperation, really distinct projects and insights emerge.'

BUCHLER'S LEGACY AND INSPIRATION

The curator of the Beyond the Battlefield's exhibition, Matthew Shaul, first came across Buchler's photography by chance on visiting [the Museum Für Photographie](#) in Braunschweig, Germany

The Museum holds over 1000 monochrome and 175 autochrome prints of Buchler's work, received in 2003 by family donation, and it was this collection which inspired Matthew to organise the eventual exhibition of images at the University.

The exhibition not only illustrates the transcending magnetism Buchler's collection possesses in evoking reflections of war across countries, but also the changing landscape of how society viewed the roles of women.

Sarah Lloyd continues: 'Buchler's story is that of many women who adopted the photographic medium and inhabited its landscape, changing society's expectations about women's technical and organisation abilities.'

PHOTOGRAPHY PIONEER

Buchler's story is definitely a commanding and fascinating one.

[She was born in Braunschweig in 1876](#), and her talent for visualisation grew in strength just as a hereditary disease causing partial deafness was seizing hold. To find means of expressing herself, Buchler turned to painting in watercolour, before progressing to using the camera. In 1901, she was gifted her first camera, the Voigtlander, by her husband who helped champion her creativity.

During visits to Berlin for hearing treatments, Buchler attended photography lessons at the Lette-Verien, an applied arts school for women where she sought advice from professionals before boldly developing on her own creative agency.



*"Family Buchler:
Father Walther, Käthe,
son Walther, and
daughter Ellen in the
garden", c. 1902*

©Estate of Käthe Buchler – Museum für Photographie Braunschweig/ Deposit Stadtarchive Braunschweig

Beyond the Battlefields: The Woman behind the lens

As well as being renowned for adeptly using Autochrome in 1913 (the world's first colour photographic process) in her work, Buchler also applied her pioneering craft in bringing to the forefront the efforts of previously marginalised groups in society.

This is merited by how Käthe Buchler integrated her work in exposing the stark realisms of war, both light hearted and daunting.

When Braunschweig was designated as one of the 'hospital cities', Buchler ventured right within hospital grounds, capturing imagery of nurses and wounded soldiers from the Front Line. Buchler also created a series of portraits recognising women overturning stereotypes entitled **'Women in Men's Jobs'**. She also gave illustrated lectures to raise funds for charitable organisations, The Red Cross and the Rettungshaus or 'House of salvation' which aided underprivileged children.

'WIFE, MOTHER AND PILLAR OF COMMUNITY'

These philanthropic endeavours, and her photographs of them, enabled Käthe Buchler to communicate her own identity as a wife, mother and pillar of community through projecting the lives of others.

This is something that still has a resounding effect on audiences today. Ian Campbell, Pro Vice-Chancellor at the University, said: 'Käthe Buchler's work is so distinctive, as her class, gender and deafness shaped her style. I'm particularly interested in the discussion surrounding her deafness because I suffer from hearing loss myself and I find it intriguing to see how her deafness influenced her work.'

Sarah concludes: 'It is thanks to such an exhibition, that audiences can now appreciate the extraordinary skills of Käthe Buchler. This pioneer of women photographers of the 20th century, whose work remained unseen for years after her death in 1930, is an exemplary figure in showcasing how human understanding and memory is inspired and transmitted through our imagination.'

About the Author

Aroona Shaukat is a University of Hertfordshire Humanities graduate currently on a short work placement in the University's marketing and communications department. Her interests include reading, writing, history, music, watching comedies and documentaries, arts and crafts, and eating sweet things! Aroona says, *"Käthe Buchler's captivating photography collection at the Beyond the Battlefields' exhibition sparked my passion to discover more about the fascinating woman behind the lens. I hope her story inspires you as much as it did me."*



IN PRESS



**Beyond the
Battlefields -
Käthe Buchler's
Photographs of
Germany in the
Great War**

**OUR NEW BOOK
INSPIRED BY THE
EXHIBITION!**

Beyond the Battlefields brings together a fascinating selection of Käthe Buchler's astonishing, insightful and, until the touring Exhibition that this new publication accompanies, almost unknown images of the German Home Front before, during and after the First World War. Described in *The Daily Telegraph* as the kind of photographs you might expect if Henri Cartier-Bresson had been a German housewife, Käthe Buchler's images focus exclusively on the war's social history and its impacts on society and social organisation in a self-respecting and self-confident town on the North German Plain.

With a very individual empathy and using some of the most advanced cameras available at the time, Buchler has recorded the role of women, children's labour for the state recycling company, the care of wounded troops and in series of highly unusual colour photographs made using the pioneering Autochrome process, the aftermath of war.

Featuring new writing by historians Professor Ian Grosvenor and Dr Nicola Gauld (University of Birmingham), Dr Helen Boak (Former Head of History at the University of Hertfordshire), Dr Pippa Oldfield (Head of Programming Impressions Gallery, Bradford) and project curator Matthew Shaul, *Beyond the Battlefields* contextualises and vibrantly brings to life this little known chapter of Germany's First World War history.

Published by the University of Hertfordshire Press to accompany the touring Exhibition organised by *Everyday Lives in War and Voices of War and Peace*, the AHRC funded First World War engagement centres at the Universities of Hertfordshire and Birmingham.

ISBN 978-1-912260-07-2, £12.50, paperback, 72pp
Available to buy directly from UH Press at:
www.uhpress.co.uk.

Alternatively, you can order your copy from your preferred bookshop or online retailer.



"Woman grating potatoes", exact year unknown

(Image: Collection of Kathe Buchler – Museum für Photographie Braunschweig / Deutsches Stadtmuseum Braunschweig)

News & Events from the Centre: **UPDATE ON PAST EVENTS**

FOOD IN WARTIME, 1914-1920

**27 April 2018
HATFIELD**

By Rachel Duffett

We held an event at University of Hertfordshire on 27 April devoted to the subject of food in the First World War. We were joined by Prof Dr Margrit Schulte Beerbühl from Germany who spoke about the Turnip Revolution and malnutrition in Germany, and Hannah Connelly from the fantastically titled community project 'War and Peas'. Hannah is working with young people in Glasgow on an allotment project and she shared some wonderful drawings the children had put together of advertisements for celebrity vegetables.



Apparently, the favourite celebrities are footballers and musicians – Donald Trump features frequently as a carrot.

Children boast about a crop of carrots that came up 'trump' through imaginary WW1 style of advertising - image courtesy: War & Peas Project

Rachel Duffett and Julie Moore from the Everyday Lives in War Centre, and Prof Jonathan Morris, a renowned coffee historian (University of Hertfordshire), spoke on food in the trenches, on the home front and the impact of the war on the coffee trade.

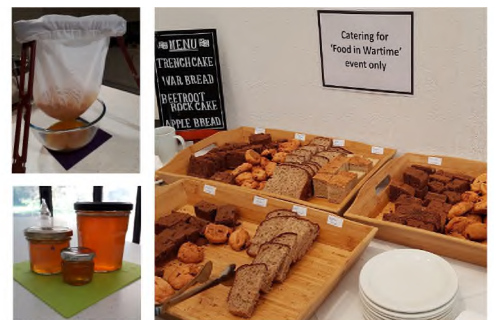
Anna Hammerin (our Centre coordinator) spoke about the Potato Revolution in Sweden 1917; an episode in Sweden's history, which was started by women and which has largely disappeared from the national story.



UH Catering (FoodHertfordshire) did a sterling job preparing a lunch and afternoon tea based on FWW recipes, cooking us Curried Rabbit, Bully Beef Stew and Maconochie Stew.

It all went down very well and was more popular than the 2018 menu alongside it!

Maconochie stew – i.e. tinned vegetables and a little unnamed meat, swimming in fat – had a very poor reputation amongst the troops, but the UH version was declared a success. This probably says more about the chef's commitment to his craft than history, but it was a great talking point.



In the afternoon we moved across to the Böhler exhibition in the adjacent UH Gallery and had an afternoon tea which included beetroot rock cakes, war bread (including potato flour), trench cake and carrot marmalade – the last made by Prof Jonathan Morris's wife, Elizabeth, and which was a true hit.

Feedback was very positive, and away from the food itself there were a lot of comments on how good it was to hear about the impact of the war on Germany and Sweden.

The event was also featured on the same day (27 April) on BBC London's regional news slots on BBC1 at 12:30 and 6:30pm.



Image Credit: Museumand - The National Caribbean Heritage Museum

News & Events from the Centre: **UPDATE ON PAST EVENTS**

CARIBBEAN HOMEFIRES

**12 May 2018
HATFIELD**

By Rachel Duffett

On Saturday 12 May, our *Everyday Lives in War* Centre hosted an event at the University of Hertfordshire, which was a collaboration with [Museumand](#), The National Caribbean Heritage Museum – a museum "without walls" dedicated to Caribbean heritage. This feature allows the museum to reach out to all groups in the UK and not be limited to one location.

Led by Catherine Ross and Lynda Burrell, Caribbean Elders groups from Nottingham, Bedford and Watford came together to share stories of how the First World War was remembered, and how their childhood reflected the social changes in their particular island, and the Caribbean as whole, as the men had gone to war, which meant that women had to take on leadership and supervisor roles in the church, commerce and family.

This was a fantastic event and, in a first for us, included an interval where childhood games and songs that would have been sung during the war and their childhood.

The groups were full of energy, laughter and stories, and enjoyed the opportunity of bonding with other groups and working in an academic setting.



On the day we showed clips from a film held at IVM, which shows sugar being produced in the Caribbean. This was taken from the propaganda film 'Feeding the Nation' showing how food was getting into Britain in spite of the war. The comments on this were fascinating as the ladies started discussing the techniques used by the farmers and sharing stories of their own family involvement in sugar growing.



This collaboration was the result of a connection made as part of a MUPI grant, and we very much hope to work with Catherine and Lynda again on future projects.

Sharing Powerful stories through personal toys and artefacts

The event also provided the opportunity for the groups to share their personal toys, books and collections. This was also a pre-taste of the [exhibition](#) now showing at the National Museum of Childhood in Sudbury, as part of the HLF 'Exploring Childhood' project, to help all communities discover what life was like for Black children growing up in Britain through the ages.





News & Events from the Centre: **WW1 PLAY**

Reviews:

"Fascinating" - The Times

"Beautifully played by Sophie Ward and Victor Gardener" - The Stage

"An intriguing rediscover... Boldly ahead of what was publicly acceptable then" - British Theatre Guide

"Something of a coup for the tiny Finborough Theatre" - Broadway World

"The performances are tip top" - Curtain Up

"Worthy addition to plays about the war and most importantly, about interwar homosexuality" - Reviews Hub

★★★★★ "Alan Cox delivers a powerful performance... Sophie Ward is a tour de force" - Diva

★★★★★ "A strong committed cast... an entertaining evening" - The Spy in the Stalls

★★★★★ "Engaging... competing... amusing..." - London Pub Theatres

★★★★★ "The cast is quite extraordinary... This play oozes class." - Close-up Culture

"TOO RACY FOR ITS TIME!"

By Robert Graves

That was the general consensus regarding the First World War play, "But It Still Goes On" by Robert Graves (author of "I, Claudius"), which explores themes of adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, gender politics, casual sex, and inter-generational conflict -- with a surreal dark twist.

As previously shared via our email circular, we are delighted that our Dr Andrew Maunder of the *Everyday Lives in War* Centre has been producing and breathing new life into this recently rediscovered, never previously performed play.

The play had its long overdue world premiere at the Finborough Theatre in London on 10 July and will be running for only a few days more, until 4 August.

The play and its excellent cast are getting raving reviews - so make sure you don't lose out on your chance for a ticket!

☎ 01223 357 851 | 📺 Online now

Enter discount code **GRAVES16** for specially prices tickets at £16.

No opportunity to see the play during its current run? Then you may be interested in reading Dr Andrew Maunder's blog about the play - 'Banging the Door on the War' - on the Arts & Humanities Research Council's website, linked [here](#).



News & Events from the Centre: **WW1 CONFERENCES**

DAY CONFERENCE

REAPPRAISING THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1918

FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2018
LIVESEY BUILDING, ROOM 013,
UCLAN, PRESTON

2018 marks the centenary of the Representation of the People Act (RPA). Passed in the last year of the First World War, the RPA enjoyed all party support, in recognition of the contribution to the war effort made by women and some working-class men, previously excluded from the franchise. Although the RPA still excluded women under 30, it tripled the electorate and transformed British politics into a representative democracy. **The RPA and its legacy are still the subject of intense historical debate relating to gender, class and nationhood.** As part of UCLan's contribution to the centenary commemorations of the First World War, this day conference will draw together speakers who are currently involved in the debate.

The conference complements the exhibition *Represent! Voices 100 Years On*, held by UCLan's long term partners, [the People's History Museum in Manchester](#) between 2nd June 2018 to 2nd February 2019. Attendance is open to interested members of the public as well as academics.

The day conference is free with lunch and refreshments provided. Booking is required via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reappraising-the-representation-of-the-people-act-1918-tickets-46354331052>

2-DAY CONFERENCE

VOICES OF THE HOME FRONTS: *Reflections and Legacies of the First World War*

19-20 OCTOBER 2018
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, KEW, LONDON



First World War Home Front research which has been conducted over the centenary period, for presentation at a two-day conference taking place on 19 and 20 October 2018 at The National Archives, Kew, London.

The conference, 'Voices of the Home Fronts: Reflections and Legacies of the First World War', is being delivered in partnership by The National Archives, the 'Gateways to the First World War' and the 'Everyday Lives in War' Engagement Centres.

The keynote speakers will be Prof. Sophie de Schaepdrijver and Richard Van Emden.

With the centenary of the end of the First World War approaching, this conference seeks to bring together independent researchers, community groups and academics to discuss the impact of the Armistice. This includes life and society in the immediate aftermath of the war – from national and international perspectives – through the use of unusual and under-used sources.

Information about ticket prices and booking via: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/voices-of-the-home-fronts-reflections-and-legacies-of-the-first-world-war-tickets-47713533463>

TRACING BELGIAN REFUGEES:



The Tracing Belgian Refugees project is developing a digital database to help trace the experiences of Belgian refugees in First World War Britain.

The project team is creating a national online database where local history projects will be invited to share their data. They are also organising workshops throughout the next year to bring potential contributors together.

If you have a story to share, or have been doing research on the Belgians who lived in your area, please get in touch! – by emailing: belgianrefugees@leeds.ac.uk

You can also visit the project website at: <https://belgianrefugees.leeds.ac.uk/>, and follow the project on Twitter at: @FWWBRRefugees.

TRAUMA AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR SUPPLEMENTARY PROJECT

Professor Nigel Hunt and Dr Larissa Allwork at the University of Nottingham have been awarded AHRC funding to explore the extent to which the psychological condition of trauma has been integrated into community engagement with the First World War centenary. **Trauma** here is being incorporated broadly to encompass a range of responses to the 1914-1918 conflict. From shell shocked soldiers recovering in specialist hospitals to cases of 'barbed wire disease' in 'enemy alien' internment camps; and from post-1918 literary and poetic representations of trauma to the contemporary family historian dealing with issues of transgenerational trauma in the archive. As part of their project, Nigel and Larissa want to get in touch with any Heritage Lottery Funded and/or AHRC First World War Engagement Centre community history projects that are engaging with narratives of trauma as part of their research.

If you are engaged with narratives of trauma as part of your First World War centenary community research project, please contact: larissa.allwork@nottingham.ac.uk

For more information, visit the project's web pages at: <https://everydaylivesinwar.herts.ac.uk/2018/07/shell-shock-stories-beyond/>



'Shell Shock': image from 'The Fourth' magazine
The Fourth: the magazine of the 4th London General Hospital, RAMC (T.F.) Vol. 1, No: 5-10, Sept 1916-Feb 1917 Archives & Manuscripts
Keywords: J.P.D. Hewatt

HARWICH HAVEN – SURRENDER & SANCTUARY

Harwich Haven – Surrender & Sanctuary is a two-year project of volunteer research and heritage interpretation around the Harwich Haven ports of North East Essex and East Suffolk (notably Harwich and Felixstowe).

The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and supported by the Everyday Lives in War First World War Engagement Centre. It explores a defining passage of world history through two internationally significant anniversaries: the centenary of the surrender of the German U Boat fleet in November 1918 and the arrival of the first Jewish refugee children known as the Kindertransport in December 1938.

In November 1918 over one hundred German U Boats came into the Haven at Harwich. During the war these enemy boats had an enormous impact on the everyday lives of epitope in the UK. The impact was felt not just in the thousands of lives lost of sailors and civilians, but on the kitchen table too. Food shortages resulted from the exploits of these 'unterseeboots'; leading to the first ever rationing of food on a national scale and the creation of the Women's Land army.

Our project will be working with volunteers to research this forgotten history, culminating in a series of commemorative events in November 2018 and into 2019. To find out more and to join us as a volunteer please drop us a line at info@nhscic.org



Don't Waste Bread! (Art.IWM PST 13354)
Copyright: © IWM. Original

For more information, please visit our project's web pages at: <https://everydaylivesinwar.herts.ac.uk/2018/06/harwich-haven-surrender-sanctuary/>

THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND ITS LEGACY: 'COMMEMORATION, CONFLICT & CONSCIENCE'

COMMEMORATION, CONFLICT and CONSCIENCE is a year-long project, which culminates in a national festival in Bristol, 27-28 April 2019.

The project looks at 'hidden' or lesser known stories of the First World War, legacy, peace-building & alienation from commemoration.

We are: uniting existing community groups and researchers, focusing on their work to date & generating new research; showcasing existing artistic work and performances and fostering new creative projects.

The project is funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council through the *Everyday Lives in War* Centre at the University of Hertfordshire. It is led by Lois Bibbings, Professor of Law, Gender and History (University of Bristol), working with Dr Corinne Painter (University of Leeds) and the Remembering the Real World War 1 group in Bristol and supported by an Advisory Board.

The festival will bring together community groups, local historians, academics, campaigners and activists, artists and performers in a free, open access weekend event timed to coincide with the centenary of the release of many absolutist conscientious objectors from prison in April 1919.

The MShed in Bristol (part of Bristol Museum Museums) will be the festival hub, with talks, film showings, exhibitions and performances – but linked events will take place in other parts of the city over the course of the weekend, and also leading up to and following it.

The project includes some seed corn funding for community groups to undertake research and/or bring their work to the festival (details of the funding application process are available on our website).

We are also supporting bids to other funders, including the Heritage Lottery Fund and, for instance, the Arts Council. Please get in touch with either Professor Lois Bibbings or Dr Corinne Painter if you would like more information about this possibility. (Note that bid support is not restricted to community groups.)

The First World War and its Legacy

COMMEMORATION, CONFLICT & CONSCIENCE

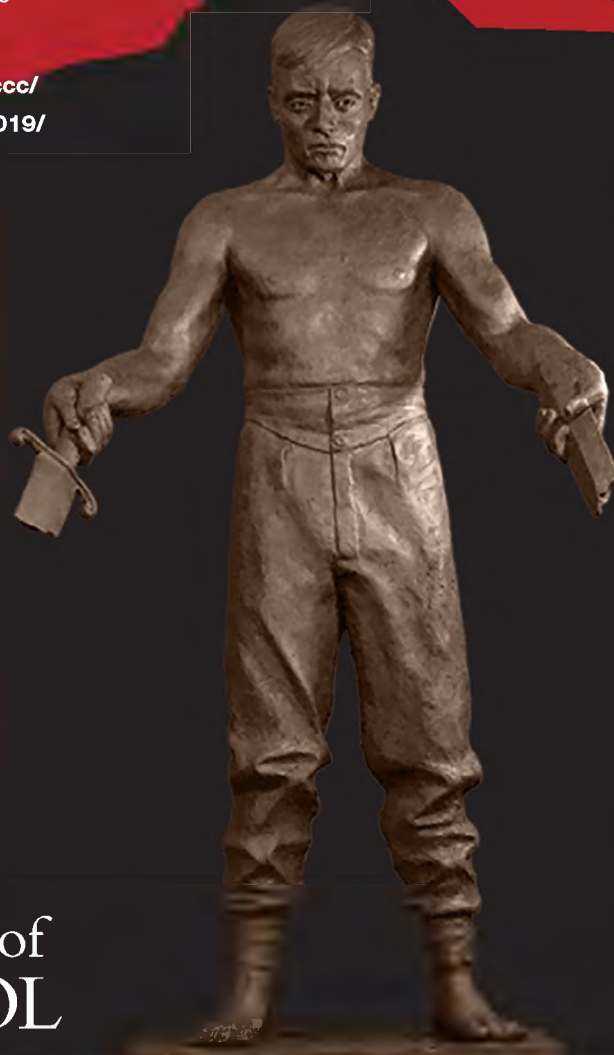
National Festival, Bristol 27-28th April 2019

Focusing on the First World War Then and Now, the project will look at, for example, conscientious objectors to military service, strikes, mutinies, desertion and absenteeism, the men executed by the British military and the Shot at Dawn campaign which fought for them to be pardoned, the global reach of the war, colonial and commonwealth experiences, women's peace activism, along with legacy, peace-building & alienation from commemoration.

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Visit our website or follow us for updates and more information:

 everydaylivesinwar.herts.ac.uk/ccf/
 www.facebook.com/FWWCCC2019/
 twitter.com/FWWCCC2019



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BRISTOL

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REMEMBERING THE REAL WW1

Mshed



Image © Estate of Käthe Buchler – Museum für Photographie Braunschweig / Deposit Stadlarchiv Braunschweig

News & Events from the Centre: 2019 WW1 CENTRE FESTIVALS

Everyday Lives in War

First World War Engagement Centre



‘LEGACIES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR’ Festivals 2019

22 & 23 MARCH 2019:
BIRMINGHAM,
MIDLAND ARTS CENTRE,
THEME ‘DIVERSITY’

*THIS FESTIVAL WILL EXPLORE WW1 AND
DIVERSITY IN ALL ITS FORMS*

18-25 MAY 2019:
NORTHERN IRELAND
(MULTIPLE VENUES),
THEME ‘SHARED HERITAGE’

*THIS FESTIVAL WILL EXPLORE THE IDEA
OF SHARED HERITAGE AROUND WW1
COMMEMORATIONS*

JULY 2019 (DATES TBC):
**SOUTH WALES (MULTIPLE
VENUES), THEME**
‘COMMUNITY ACTIVISM’

*THIS FESTIVAL WILL EXPLORE
COMMUNITY ACTIVISM IN WW1
COMMEMORATIONS AND THE IMPACT OF
COMMUNITY-FOCUSED PROJECTS ON
INSTITUTIONS*

30 & 31 AUGUST 2019:
GLASGOW, GLASGOW
WOMEN’S LIBRARY, THEME
‘WOMEN AND WAR’

*THIS FESTIVAL WILL LOOK BEYOND THE
TYPICAL STORIES TOLD ABOUT WOMEN’S
INVOLVEMENT IN WW1, WHICH HAVE
TENDED TO FOCUS ON MUNITIONS AND
NURSING, TO OFFER A MORE DIVERSE
AND VARIED INTERPRETATION*

7 NOVEMBER 2019:
WOBURN HOUSE
CONFERENCE CENTRE,
TAVISTOCK SQUARE,
LONDON

*A FINAL CONFERENCE WHICH WILL
EXPLORE ‘LEGACY, IMPACT AND NEXT
STEPS’*

We are delighted to announce the dates for our Legacies of the First World War Festivals, which will be jointly hosted by the five WW1 Engagement Centres and held across the UK in 2019. We welcome community organisers, heritage and creative workers, academics, local historians, and members of the public.

Each festival will have a unique theme and will be dedicated to reflecting on public history and heritage, exploring the different types of collaborative work that has been done around WW1 subjects since 2014, & to thinking about future/potential collaborations and how community organisations and academics can continue working together to explore all aspects of the past.

We have a limited budget for **bursaries** to cover the costs of community organisations being able to attend and present their work. Please contact Ms Nicola Gauld at n.gauld@bham.ac.uk as soon as possible if you require a bursary as these will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

Each festival will enable participants and attendees to better understand the challenges and opportunities of collaborative work around history, heritage and commemoration. A series of panel discussions, informal workshops, film screenings, guided walks, and performances will provide an informal and friendly forum for stimulating conversations around co-produced knowledge and critical responses to history and heritage.

How to get involved

Please get in touch to tell us how you would like to participate by contacting Nicola Gauld of the Voices of War & Peace Centre, at: n.gauld@bham.ac.uk for a submission form and with any questions about your proposal or about the availability of bursaries.

Your proposal could take the form of a 20 minute presentation about your project, a longer workshop (up to 50 minutes), a film screening, a guided walk, a short drama or music performance, or other form of presentation and should be **submitted to Nicola by 1 October 2018**.

For more information, please see: <https://everydaylivesinwar.herts.ac.uk/2018/07/2019-ww1-engagement-centres-festival-legacies-of-the-first-world-war/>

Are you an ECR or PGR exploring the history, heritage, culture or memory of the First World War?

£1000
Research
Grant



Do you want to develop your own knowledge as well as that of your community, the public or a heritage partner?

The First World War Network is pleased to offer its members the opportunity to apply for a Collaborative Research Grant of up to **£1000** each to help fund a project with a group, individual or organisation from the general public or the heritage sector.

For full details visit our website. All queries and applications should be directed to Dr. Philippa Read at fwwnetwork@gmail.com

Deadlines for applications is 31 August 2018

fwwnetwork.wordpress.com



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



**Everyday
Lives in War**

First World War Engagement Centre



Centre for
Hidden Histories





HARWICH HAVEN

**SURRENDER
& SANCTUARY****24 AUGUST 2018**

Don't miss out on this great occasion for **National Archive research training** on 24 August. The training session is **free** and travel expenses are covered, so truly a win-win opportunity!

For more information and registration, please contact:
info@nhscic.org



Our Everyday Lives in War Centre team has enjoyed a busy spring and summer. The following is a snapshot of our very active (and most enjoyable and stimulating) Centre diary:

ACTIVITIES – BY CENTRE TEAM MEMBERS

JAN TO MAR

Rachel Duffett (via the AHRC's 'List of WW1 Experts') has been advising on the historic detail for a short film on the war, 'Hymn of Hate', to be shown in festivals later in this year.

09 MAR

Andrew Maunder held a 1-day symposium, 'Spies & Spying' (WW1 spy panic & the Home Front) at The National Archives in Kew, as part of the 'Performing Centenaries' project with our sister Centre, Living Legacies, Belfast.

21 MAR

Jim Beach has published a piece on the [GCHQ](#) website about a soldier, Corporal Vince Schurhoff, whose diary Jim Beach edited for the Army Records Society.

30 MAR

Jim Beach spoke on ['The British Army and its Intelligence Corps, 1904-1940'](#) at National Army Museum.

27 APRIL

Sarah Lloyd launched together with **Corinne Painter** of the University of Leeds, and **Lois Bibbings** of the University of Bristol, the 'Commemoration, Conflict & Conscience' project, exactly 1 year prior to the project Festival in 2019.

02 MAY

Rachel Duffett, **Mike Roper** and David Savill of Age Exchange presented a seminar on the 'Meeting in No Man's Land' at the Institute of Historical Research, London.

14 MAY

Anna Hammerin spoke on 'the Swedish Potato Revolution' at the Revolutionary Women's two-day workshop at the University of Leeds.

18 MAY

Kent Fedorowich attended the [First World War Centenary Partnership South West Meeting – 2018](#).

24 MAY

Nick Mansfield attended the Consultation Roundtable on the IWM Partnerships Programme – followed by the main Partnership meeting the same day.

JUNE

Jim Beach contributed a chapter on British Intelligence and the Battle of Verdun published in a volume on 1916 ('At All Costs') edited by Spencer Jones of the University of Wolverhampton.

14 JUNE

Julie Moore & Rachel Duffett's contribution to the IWM First World War Centenary's Women's Work 100 online feature is now up and available to view as follows: <http://www.1914.org/womenswork100/stories/farming-food-and-family/>

14-15 JUNE

Jane Chapman recently contributed an exhibition of First World War cartoons, comics and photographs to the UNI Global Union World Women's Conference in Liverpool. The content considered the role of women on the British home front, including comics by the 'Grandfather of the British newspaper comic strip', William Kerridge Haselden, and photographs of female munitions workers. The descriptions of these images were translated into three languages, an indication of the international scope of the conference.

20 JUNE

Kent Fedorowich spoke on 'The Sawdust Fusiliers: Canadian Forestry Corps in Devon, 1916-1919' at Stover Country Park near Newton Abbott.

10 JULY – 04 AUG

Andrew Maunder produced the WW1 play 'But It Still Goes On' by Robert Graves at Finborough Theatre, London – which is currently running until 4 August, inclusive.

14 SEPT

Nick Mansfield will be organising a study day at UCLan on 'Reappraising the Representation of the People Act, 1918', on Friday 14 September.

JUNE TO DEC

Nick Mansfield will be assisting in set-up of an exhibition on the impact of the Representation of the People Act, 1918. This will be at the [People's History Museum in Manchester](#).

BOOKS & OTHER OUTPUTS

BOOK

Our *Everyday Lives in War* Centre team has prepared a joint publication with our sister Centre in Birmingham (Voices of War and Peace) of a book on Kathe Buchler's photographs and UK exhibitions – see page 3.

BOOK

Owen Davies, as part of the Basketry Project, and in close collaboration with Rothamsted Research, is about to complete a book on The Cultivation and Use of Basket Willows.

FILMS

A series of 6 films produced by our Basketry Project (the latest of which is a film on basketry as therapy, e.g. to aid the rehabilitation of shell-shocked soldiers) is now available on our [website](#).

FILM/PODCASTS

Everyday Lives in War has harnessed a wealth of film material on the activities surrounding the Kathe Buchler exhibition, including the Hatfield launch event and themed talks/presentations. We are currently editing the film material and plan to have a finalised film and/or themed educational podcasts completed in late summer/early autumn.

EXHIBITION RESOURCES

A series of 8 free-standing, themed pop-up banners created by our Basketry Then and Now project has gained such popularity within the basketry and museum/heritage community across the UK that a special rota for a free loan of the banners has now been created.

BLOGS FOR AHRC'S 'BEYOND THE TRENCHES'

Julie Moore's blog post titled 'Finding the Women Like Us in the First World War' can be accessed as follows: <http://beyondthetrenches.co.uk/finding-the-women-like-us-in-the-first-world-war/>

Nick Mansfield's blog post titled 'Aspects of the Representation of the People and the Khaki' can be accessed as follows: <http://beyondthetrenches.co.uk/aspects-of-representation-of-the-people-act-1918/>

Andrew Maunder's blog post titled '"Banging the Door on the War": Re-visiting Robert Graves But Still It Goes On and the Post-war Plays of the 1920s' can be accessed here: <http://beyondthetrenches.co.uk/banging-the-door-on-the-war-re-visiting-robert-graves-but-it-still-goes-on-and-the-post-war-plays-of-the-1920s/>



An Update from our Collaborative Project Partner on: *Spiritualism in WW1*

LOST VOICES: SPIRITUALISM IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

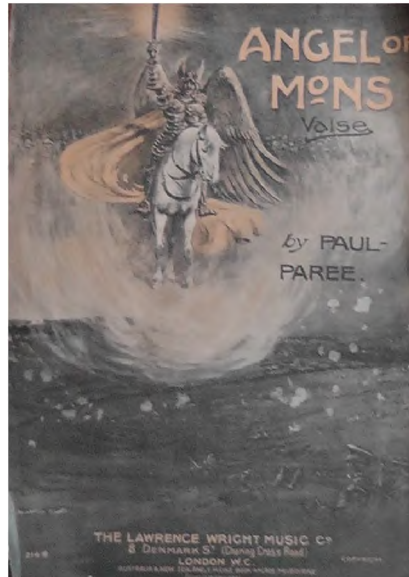
By Karl Bell

On 19th November 2017, The Lost Voices project hosted a public event to mark the close of its research activities and to promote its research on Spiritualism in the First World War.

In the suitably atmospheric surroundings of the Square Tower, Old Portsmouth, members of the project presented an evening of informative talks and then engaged in a lively question and answer session with the audience, a rich mix of local Spiritualists, university students, and the general public. The evening started with a wine reception and the opportunity for the audience to peruse the roller banner posters that summarised the main findings of the Lost Voices project.

Supernatural beliefs at the battle front

University of Portsmouth historians Dr Karl Bell and Ellis Phillips started by setting out the broader historical context of supernatural beliefs on the battle front, examining such things as the role of good luck charms and the belief in spectral and angelic visions, perhaps the most famous of which remains the Angel of Mons (<http://spartacus-educational.com/FWWangelsmons.htm>).



It was suggested that the hellish environment of the battle front and the prevalence of death and destruction creating a sense of unreality in which beliefs in ghosts and magic became more commonplace. This blurring of religious and magical 'superstitions' was demonstrated in the legend of the Golden Virgin of Albert (<http://www.worldwar1.com/heritage/leaningv.htm>).

Portsmouth Temple of Spiritualism in WW1

Richard Hayes, chairman of the Portsmouth Temple of Spiritualism (<http://portsmouthtempleofspiritualism.co.uk>) and a chief collaborator in the research project, then outlined the tenets of Spiritualism and the history of Portsmouth's Temple of Spiritualism in the pre-war and wartime period.

It was fascinating to hear about the growth of the Temple from its origins as the Portsmouth Spiritualist Society in 1901, and its organisational struggles throughout the war. Despite Portsmouth, the home of the Royal Navy, being an obvious strategic target, in 1915 the Temple was forced to forego bomb insurance due to lack of funds. Yet in 1917 and 1918 the Temple contributed to a nationwide campaign by the National Spiritualist Union to raise money for the Witchcraft Act Repeal Fund, an attempt to get spirit mediumship distinguished from the fraudulent practices of fortune-tellers.

In the immediate post-war period local interest in Spiritualism appears to have bloomed, requiring the Temple to hire a larger venue, Portland Hall, for special events, and to purchase five hundred Spiritualist hymn books.

Conan Doyle and Spiritualism

Matt Wingett, a local novelist and expert on Arthur Conan Doyle's beliefs in Spiritualism (<https://www.amazon.com/Conan-Doyle-Mysterious-World-Light/dp/0957241356>), then gave an entertaining and authoritative talk on the famous creator of Sherlock Holmes and how he became a champion of Spiritualism in the latter years of his life. Although personal family losses in the First World War prompted his commitment, Matt explained that Conan Doyle's interest in Spiritualism actually had its roots in his time as a local doctor in Southsea in the 1880s.



An Update from our Collaborative Project Partner on: *Spiritualism in WW1*

Spiritualism on the home front

Karl and Ellis then outlined the project's research on Spiritualism on the home front. This section was most informed by our collaborative research workshops. We outlined the Spiritualist National Union's internal struggles over issues such as support for the war and conscientious objection, and its external struggles with the police, the law, and the suspected 'hidden hand' of ecclesiastical opposition.

The role of the press in the immediate post-war period was highlighted too, with journalists being critical of the way a grieving nation was left vulnerable to fraudulent mediums, while also condemning the failure of established religions to attend to people's emotional pain and needs.

Yet it was also noted that levels of wartime and postwar public interest in Spiritualist practices and beliefs remains extremely difficult to gauge beyond formal organisations such as the Portsmouth Temple and the SNU. Spiritualism's organisational growth and development in this period should not necessarily be read as a sign of sustained public interest in Spiritualism.

The presentations were followed by an enthusiastic question and answer session which prompted queries and responses from many members of the audience. Discussion nicely linked local histories, Spiritualist beliefs, and reflections on the value and challenges of conducting collaborative historical research.

This event formed part of a citywide creative and cultural festival, Portsmouth DarkFest, inspired by Dr Karl Bell's Supernatural Cities project (www.supernaturalcities.co.uk/). In exploring these rather unorthodox aspects of the First World War, and through collaborating with members of the Portsmouth Temple of Spiritualism, we felt we were able to fulfil the project's aim of giving a voice to a marginalised community, both in terms of its muted wartime history and its place in contemporary society.



Dr Karl Bell's project, *Lost Voices: Spiritualism on the Home Front, 1914-1919* (community partner: Portsmouth Spiritualist Temple) was funded by the Everyday Lives in War Centre in 2017, to explore our understanding of the tensions that existed beneath the surface of everyday lives at the time, and also the spiritual and supernatural ideas that were woven into the war itself.

Interested in finding out more about superstitious and supernatural beliefs in the First World War?

If so, you may be delighted to learn that our Centre colleague's, Prof Owen Davies, forthcoming book, *A Supernatural War*, will be out in October!



The book explores the experience of fortune-telling, magic, talismans, prophecy, notions of luck, and psychical forces on both sides of the conflict during WW1.

To learn more and how to (pre)order your copy, please see www.everydaylivesinwar.org.uk/

From the Postbag

First World War-related news, events, funding opportunities & updates from external partners and members of the Community, as well as our sister Centres around the UK.

Images ©Estate of Käthe Buchler – Museum für Photographie Braunschweig/Deposit Stadtarchive Braunschweig

From the Postbag: *Funding Opportunities*



LOTTERY FUNDED

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Heritage Lottery Fund: First World War - then and now

Closing date: Any time up to December 2018

Explore the heritage of the First World War with grants of £3,000–£10,000. This programme has a short application form, and is suitable for everyone, including first-time applicants.

The First World War affected millions across the globe and shaped the world we live in. The Centenary is a chance to understand the war better, uncover its stories and explore what it means to us today.

Everyone should have the chance to discover more about the war and mark the Centenary. That's why HLF are providing this special grant programme for community projects. You can apply at any time up to 2019.

For additional information about the **HLF FWW grants**, please see: bit.ly/1GszEiF

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND FUNDING

BIG IDEAS

BIG IDEAS has launched a programme of community engagement projects marking the centenary of the First World War. Remember Together 2018, supported by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, brings diverse communities together to commemorate shared - and often sidelined - heritage, bringing significant marginalised heritage into the mainstream.



To access the Big Ideas funding page direct, please go to: <https://www.big-ideas.org/funding/>

Awarding funds from
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®

www.hlf.org.uk

Heritage Lottery Fund 1-on-1 Advice sessions



Friends of Cedars Park & Broxbourne Council 'Cedars Park Pond revival' HLF grant award £59,700.

**Monday 13th August
11:00am – 3pm**

Broxbourne & East Herts CVS, Sanville Gardens,
Stanstead Abbots, SG12 8GA

**Do you have an idea for a heritage project?
Are you looking for funding?**

Book a 30 minute session with Sally Page, Heritage Lottery Fund Development Officer, for an informal chat about how our funding could help you to celebrate and share your heritage.

Please call Sally: **07790375405** or email: sally.page@hlf.org.uk to book your slot.

Awarding funds from
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®

Find out more about Heritage Lottery Fund supported projects, by going to: <https://www.hlf.org.uk/our-projects>



‘HERTS AT WAR’ TALKS

Our close colleagues at Herts at War are having a busy summer – including two fascinating **WW1 talks**; a much praised **exhibition** at the British Schools Museum in Hitchin (running until 8 December); as well as a **centenary tour to France** following the story and movements of the Hertfordshire Regiment

The two upcoming (and FREE) Herts at War talks planned for August at the University of Hertfordshire are:

- Sunday 5 August: **Indy Neidell** - The Eastern Brusilov Offensive
- Wednesday 15 August: **Colonel Jack Sheldon** - The Defeat of the German Army in the West

For more information and to book tickets for the talks, please see [Herts at War website](#).

‘HERTS AT WAR’ EXHIBITION



BRITISH SCHOOLS MUSEUM
41/42 Queen Street
Hitchin SG4 9TS
Hertfordshire
Tel: 01462 420144

The Herts at War exhibition at the British Schools Museum covers nine areas across the site and tells the story of the of the Hertfordshire's First World War through six men's stories, while given the wider war context. Also on offer:

- Military artefacts, historic collections & interactive displays throughout the site
- Free Research Service - Find out about your own family experiences during the Great War
- Free Digitisation Service - Bring along your family collections to find out what they can tell you & leave with a FREE digital record.

Open Friday and Saturday 10 to 4pm & Sunday 2 to 5pm.

For more information, please visit the [British Schools Museum website](#).

For a flavour of the much praised, interactive and immersive Herts at War exhibition (excellent for school visits), we recommend having a look at this short [video](#).

‘THE LOST FILES’ – EXHIBITION ON CONSCIOUS OBJECTORS

5 May – 23 Sept 2018

BRUCE CASTLE MUSEUM
Lordship Lane
Tottenham, LONDON N17 8NU
Tel: 020 8808 8772



Artist Al Johnson's new sculpture *The Lost Files* is an installation that explores the experience of the conscientious objectors of World War One.

There were 350 COs from Haringey who - for moral, religious or political reasons - refused to participate in the War.

This work offers a glimpse into how it might have felt, at great personal risk, to stand against the conventions of society. It is a homage to those brave and principled men and women. The Lost Files suggests an office that has been subject to desecration. Twelve white wooden containers that could be the drawers from lost filing cabinets, are scattered, piled or propped around the space, suggesting abandonment and disrespect. Each box considers an aspect of war resistance, utilising a variety of media: sculpture; found objects; sound; archive material and photographs.

This exhibition is part of the project '[Conscientious Objection Remembered - the Hidden History of Haringey's WW1 COs](#)' by the [Haringey First World War Peace Forum](#). The group researches the lives of conscientious objectors and their supporters in Hornsey, Tottenham and Wood Green, now the London borough of Haringey.

The project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, as part of the 'First World War Then and Now' programme.

For more information, please see: [The Haringey London website](#)

VICTORY IN SIGHT.



Description

1918-2018: AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – THE END OF THE WAR & THE RESHAPING OF A CENTURY

6-8 September 2018

University of Wolverhampton

BOOKING NOW OPEN!

This international conference will be hosted by the Centre for Historical Research at the University of Wolverhampton in collaboration with the Western Front Association and the FWW Network for Early Career & Postgraduate Researchers. It is further supported and sponsored by: the Arts & Humanities Research Council's First World War Public Engagement Centres; History West Midlands; Helion & Company; and Battle Honours.

The event will spotlight the latest research on the events of 1918 as well as the global significances, consequences, and legacy of this watershed year.

It brings international perspectives and encompasses a wide range of historical approaches as well as cross-disciplinary insights. To do so it will include seven keynote addresses from some of the leading academic authorities on the First World War and its aftermath, along with over sixty speakers in themed panel sessions. It will also include a roundtable discussion based on the theme of: 'A Hundred Years of Teaching, Learning & Understanding the First World War: Where are we now?'

The event has been developed collaboratively with heritage agencies, museums, art galleries, funders, schools and community groups involved in First World War research, remembrance and events.

For further information, a full draft programme, conference fees and details on how to book your tickets, please visit the conference webpage

www.wlv.ac.uk/1918to2018).

The conference is open to all.

Early registration is encouraged to avoid disappointment.

We'd love to hear from you!



Do you have any WW1-related news, events, conferences or stories that you would like to share with us and our readers? If so, please send them to:
firstworldwar@herts.ac.uk.

If you include an image, please make sure to let us know of any image credits and/or any image-related restrictions.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The Everyday Lives in War
Centre team xx

Our readers may be interested to learn of some other diverse Conferences taking place this autumn in the UK and abroad - of which the following are some examples:



WW1 AT SEA CONFERENCE

The First World War at Sea: Conflict, Culture and Commemoration [in partnership with the Gateway to the First World War AHRC consortium] – National Maritime Museum – November (Dr Quintin Colville).

More information [here](#).



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, UKRAINE

Cities and the Multiplicity of Exits from the Great War, National University of Kiev, Ukraine.

More information [here](#).



THE WILFRED OWEN FESTIVAL

The Wilfred Owen Festival is a festival of commemoration and remembrance taking place in the town of Oswestry, Shropshire.

The festival will run through from 15th September until 17th November 2018 with the main focal point for events being from 30th October to 11th November. It is a festival designed to coincide with the centenary of Owen's death and the centenary of Armistice Day, and will be a unique and fitting tribute to Owen in the town of his birth and to all those who sacrificed their lives for us during times of conflict.

A wide range of events and performances will be taking place throughout the period and will include Poetry, Drama, Music, Lectures, Re-enactment, Films, Artwork, Exhibitions and much more!

There will also be the unveiling of a new life size bronze statue of Owen commissioned by Oswestry Town Council. The statue has been created by local sculptor and artist Tim Turner and will be cast at the Castle Fine Arts Foundry in near-by Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant.

A small committee of local people with a wide range of skill sets is in place to oversee the organisation of the festival and members of the committee are always willing to listen to ideas from anyone who feels they have something to add or would like to participate in some way in the festival. We are also currently seeking potential sponsors for the series of events taking place, a list of which can be found under the **Events** section of the website.

For more information:

please contact:

info@wilfredowenoswestry2018.org.uk

please visit the website:

<http://www.wilfredowenoswestry2018.org.uk/>



'I REMAIN YOUR LOVING WIFE LIZZIE': LETTERS IN A SKIP (1917-1919)

The First World War created a huge army from civilians who had never fought before. They left behind families, sweethearts, wives and children. They too experienced war. When it broke out in 1914, Lizzie Green and her husband Tom were newly wed with a baby son. They were an ordinary working-class couple living in a rented house off the Old Kent Road near the London Docks. In 1916 Tom was conscripted and in 1917 he was sent to India, not to return until the end of 1919. Lizzie was on her own. We wouldn't know anything about them unless, by chance, in a skip on the sea front in Broadstairs, Kent, over a hundred of Lizzie's letters to Tom had not been found. Frayed and faded now, her robust handwriting recorded for Tom her daily existence and gossip. Here as the letters unfold over the long absence, we open a window into a life disrupted and hurt by separation. The military war was somewhere else: in south east London it was hard graft, early bombing raids, rationing, raging flu, family rows, problems with lodgers, and the landlord, and the prolonged wait for demobilisation. How Lizzie longed for him, for his return, for the future. Single-minded, determined to survive, she waited, and wrote.

Read our Centre Director's, Prof Sarah Lloyd, review of the book [here](#).



WHEN THE WAR CAME HOME: THE OTTOMANS' GREAT WAR AND THE DEVASTATION OF AN EMPIRE

Dear Everyday Lives in War readers:

My name is Yigit Akin and I am an assistant professor of history at Tulane University. My research specialty is the late Ottoman Empire and early Republican Turkey with a particular emphasis on the socio-cultural history of WW1 and its aftermath. I've been a long-time social media follower of the "Everyday Lives in War" project. I (and my students as well) have benefited immensely from the diverse and rich material you put together.

I thought perhaps the followers of your project might find my recently published book on the Ottoman home front of interest. It includes extensive discussions about everyday activities of ordinary Ottoman people and how they coped with the difficulties the war brought upon them. One of the major objectives of my project from the very beginning has been to put the Ottoman experience of the Great War with European experiences and, with this objective in mind, I try to reach to non-Ottomanist audiences as well.

Here is the full bibliographic info of the book:
<http://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=28602>

Many thanks for your time.
Yigit

From the Postbag: Research Resources

If you are a member of the IWM First World War Centenary Partnership, you can now access the following research resources:



Image Credit: ©IWM Q 69031

New resource pack available to download: 100 Days, **[Armistice and Aftermath](#)**. Discover first-hand accounts of the final months of the First World War, images, film clips and oral histories – all available for members to use, for free, under the terms of the **[Partnership Member Agreement](#)**.



Image Credit: ©IWM WomenWork100 Artwork

WOMENSWORK100 SHORT FILMS

The WomensWork100 film package is now available to download. **[Find out more](#)** about this exciting package of short films, including two IWM archive films depicting women on the home front and at the fronts of the First World War, and a contemporary documentary about the suffragette surgeons of Endell Street Hospital.

[Follow this link](#) to place your order.



AN INFORMATION “BLACK HOLE”: WORLD WAR ONE IN AFRICA

There are many unknown stories of how there were War and Home Fronts beyond Europe. In this article, our guest author, Dr Marika Sherwood, brings our attention to the information ‘black hole’ on World War I in Africa:

There has been much commemoration on our television screens, on our web-sites and in our newspapers on World War I. But where was the war fought? That World War One was also fought in Africa is usually relegated to a sentence or a brief paragraph in most books on the War.

The BBC’s website, www.bbc.co.uk/history/0/ww1, for example, states that it was fought ‘from the trenches and the Somme on the Western Front, to the collapse of Russia and the Ottoman Empire on the Eastern Front’. There are 19 films/videos, innumerable articles and speeches on <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i>, but no mention of Africa.

On the Wikipedia website which many people would look at, there are c.19,000 words dealing with the war itself of which 90 are on

Africa. (But, to be fair, there is a reference to a useful website.)

The Guardian newspaper’s archive on WWI (available on the web), there is nothing on Africa.

Any reports published in the newspapers during the war in Africa are either a sentence in a general report on the war, or occasionally very very brief reports issued by the War Office. South Africa merits a few more sentences.

Thus information was very tightly controlled. The Times published one article by ‘Our East African Correspondent’ on 22 January 1918: ‘A Land of Promise: the possibilities of East Africa’, which deals with the problems being faced by the settlers, their participation in the war and the many hopes for increased products from East Africa once the Germans are expelled. There are no other articles by him/her and the paper does not appear to have had a ‘West African Correspondent’. Or were The Times and other newspapers not permitted to publish any horror stories of the war from Africa?

Why is this? Are only the Europeans fighting in the trenches in Europe important? Even the one hundred thousand Chinese labourers digging those trenches are usually ignored. [1] Was information on the many aspects of the war ever kept by the colonial masters? If it was, it was certainly not made available to the public, either in Britain or in the colonies.

Trying to discover how many men (and women?) were involved in the battles in Africa,

how many died, and were wounded[2], and the numbers of civilians who died, reveals the disinterest of the colonial masters. The carnage was so horrific that ‘Whitehall deemed it to be a “bloody tale” that was best ignored, or even suppressed’.[3] The Chief of the Colonial Division of the American delegation argued at the 1919 Peace Conference that: ‘the number of native victims...may be too long to give to the world and Africa’.[4] In view of this, I guess that the highest numbers are the closest to the truth.

This article is an introduction to Africa, to the War and to the lack of and conflicting information available.

The whole article can be accessed via the [Everyday Lives in War website](#).

[1] The numbers of Chinese on the Western Front varies from author to author: eg <http://www.1914-1918.net/labour.htm> states 126,000; <http://militaryhistorynow.com/2013/12/04/the-forgotten-trench-diggers-of-the-western-front-meet-ww1s-chinese-labour-corps/> states 140,000; <http://www.remembrancetrails-northernfrance.com/history/nations-in-war/chinese-labourers-in-northern-france-during-the-great-war.html> states 80,000 and is the only site with a number for deaths: 7,900. Etc, etc.

[2] Of course, there is no accounting of how many of the wounded survived/died.

[3] Edward Paice, *Tip & Run*, London 2007, p.394. The use of the word ‘casualties’ in some of the reports is, I presume, deliberately misleading, as it can mean dead, injured, wounded.

[4] Edward Paice, *How the Great War Razed East Africa*, 4 August 2014, www.africaresearchinstitute.org/publications/counterpoints/how-



"Boys with their rabbits", c. 1915

Image ©Estate of Käthe Buchler – Museum für Photographie Braunschweig/ Deposit Stadtarchiv Braunschweig

COMMEMORATING WAR – THROUGH A PAINTING OF PEACE

Dear Everyday Lives in War:

It may interest you that we possess a water colour painting, painted on the 12-11-1918- the first day of peace, given to my grandfather The Rev William Pollock-Hill MA Oxen, a 53 year old army chaplain called up in March 1918. It was painted by 2nd Lieutenant Valentine Rudolph Burkhardt, who later became a Colonel, The Army Attaché in Peking in 1944, a fluent Mandarin speaker and owner of an amazing Chinese stamp collection .

It shows the Sambre Canal between Oisly and Etreux, scene of two of the most famous British Army river crossings battles. The first 24th August 1914, the retreat of the BEF and defense by the men of the 2nd Munster Fusiliers who held back a German regiment for six hours and suffered 99 out of 190 casualties, before surrendering.

The second crossing of this canal in the Aisne department, near Mons, in November 1918 was where the poet, Wilfred Owen was killed and awarded the MC.

"Owen was killed in action on 4 November 1918 during the crossing of the Sambre–Oise Canal, exactly one week (almost to the hour) before the signing of the Armistice which ended the war, and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant the day after his



death. His mother received the telegram informing her of his death on Armistice Day, as the church bells in Shrewsbury were ringing out in celebration." I have been to see this spot last year.

Above is the painting and close up on the dates, as well as (to the right) my grandfather in his Chaplain's Army uniform.

More information can be found at:
<http://www.theygavetheirtoday.com/chaplains-who-survived.html>

BBC Radio 4 sent their Arts correspondence out to see the painting, for Will Gompertz's programme "The Art of the Nation: the Nation at War" - catch-up of which can be found here:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04bn0qm>

Regards,
Stephen Pollock-Hill



MR FRANK BRITTAIN

In 1914, Hertfordshire became the first Scout County in the UK to initiate Home Front work for Scouts. This initiative spread like wildfire throughout the UK.

6 AUGUST 1914

As soon as war was declared on 4 August, an emergency meeting of Hertfordshire Scout Commissioners was held at "Dursley" the Avenue Road home of St Albans District Commissioner Charles Dymoke Green. Following this, Percy Everett the County Scout Commissioner, wrote to the Chief Constable offering 1000 Scouts out of a total force of 1300 to be available to give "round the clock" assistance. As a result, the Scouts of Hertfordshire were immediately attached to every Police Station in the County and were asked to report twice daily.

By 10 August, St Albans Scout District became the first to fully mobilise and all 164 Scouts were allocated in three eight-hour shifts. They were soon providing a 24 hrs a day cover for the Army, Fire Brigade, Police, Ambulance Service and the Local Council.

Only Scouts over 14 years were used. They would have been at work, expected to wear uniform and be on standby for the call to go into action without a moment's delay.

The whole Country was watching as Hertfordshire took the lead, knowing that Charles Dymoke Green and Percy Everett had the ear and approval of the Founder, Baden-Powell. Almost every county in England quickly followed Hertfordshire's example.

A leading St Albans citizen, Councillor Part, concerned at the inadequacy of Scout uniform in the approaching cold weather, thought that the Scouts should have protective clothing. He enabled the purchase of khaki capes, which had to be signed for upon issue and return. Some poorer boys were also issued boots. The "Cape Issue Book", "Watch Duty Logbook," "Training Logbook," and "Day-book Diary," are kept at the Hertfordshire Scout Heritage Centre at Well End, Borehamwood, WD6 5PR.

A number of these unique documents were on display at the Museum of St Albans, Hatfield Road, AL1 3RR, in their



commemorative WWI Exhibition. This ran from 13 June to the end of November 2014.

George Foxlee of the Fourth St Albans Scout Troop was photographed blowing his bugle for the "All Clear." This image appeared on the front page of most national newspapers in 1915 and the initiative taken by Hertfordshire Scouting was mentioned in the chapter about the national role of Scouting in The Times History of the First World War.

It was generally accepted that nationally the war would bring an end to Scouting. Practically every Scoutmaster had volunteered or was called up by the Army or Navy. However, Scouting's strength was in the Patrol System which soon proved its worth, with the Court of Honour as the directing body, the Patrol Leaders, aged 14-15 years, took over the role of the Scoutmaster and in line with the ideals of B-P and his guidance from the weekly copy of The Scout, carried out their duties and responsibilities with ease and to the letter.

Hertfordshire Sea Scouts were also seconded to coast watching duties. As all Coastguards had volunteered or were recruited, 8000 Sea Scouts became responsible for helping to protect the coasts of England throughout the war. A total of 73 Scouts from Hertfordshire were also sent to Flax Gathering Camps at Deeping St James in Lincolnshire. Flax was needed in the main for the covering of aeroplane wings.

Locally, they undertook the overnight guarding of local bridges, railway tunnels, reservoirs and telegraph poles. Also, the moving of furniture from house to house by barrow, making bandages, filling sandbags and white-washing kerbstones

Scouts were chosen for these duties as they were able to work on their own initiative, and were already progressively trained in ship and aircraft recognition, observation, signalling, first aid, survival, cooking, self-sufficiency, animal welfare, forestry, self defence and many other life skills.

Hertfordshire Scouting is supporting a national, fundraising scheme for a memorial to be placed at the National Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire. This will not only be a tribute to Scouts who have fallen in conflict, those who gained bravery awards, including 11 VCs in WWI; but also to the service given by Scouts to the benefit of the Country through their Scouting roles.

References can also be made to the book, Milestones of 105 Years of Hertfordshire Scouting (2013) at £5 for a DVD. (Cheques payable to Hertfordshire Scouts).

An illustrated talk The Role of Hertfordshire Scouts during WWI has been prepared. To book, please apply to the County Scout Historian.

If anyone has Scouting memorabilia of any age to donate to our Scout Heritage Centre and Archive, please also contact me directly.

This information has been researched and compiled by FRANK L. BRITTAIN Archivist & Historian, Hertfordshire Scouts, Well End Activity Centre, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, WD6 5PR.

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HERTFORDSHIRE

Have you got a story to share?

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