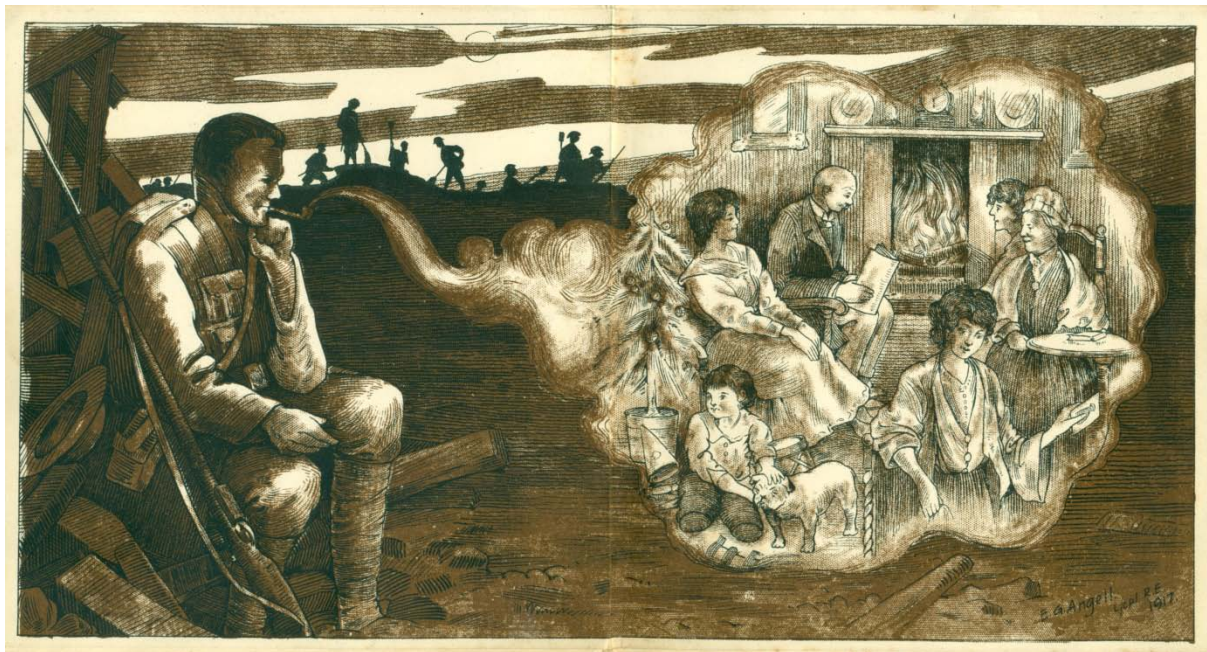


# PEACE NOT WAR: KEEPING HOPE ALIVE 1914-18

## STIMULUS MATERIAL



### COMBATANTS

Peace, peace, let us have peace,  
Quoth Bill with a face grave and long;  
You can see we have won  
Ere you've really begun  
So let's chuck it while I'm going strong  
*Wipers Times 25 December 1916*

A glorious peaceful day. No telephone and no excitements. I have really enjoyed myself pottering round the horses  
*Lt Col the Hon Ralph Hamilton, 23 July 1916, Eecke*

I believe I am happier in the trenches than anywhere out here  
*Paul Nash, war artist*

I have never felt so well, or so happy, or enjoyed anything so much  
*Poet Julian Grenfell on reconnaissance between the lines*

I think of him now, at peace, away from all this noise and misery...he can rest at last  
*Col of Grenadier Guards writing of the death of his friend Major Lord Bernard  
Charles Gordon Lennox*

As one looks upon the peaceful country-side in France to-day one can scarcely realize that the war is raging in all its ferocity and barbarity so near. It seems an anomaly. The weather is more suggestive of cricket than of war.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Thomas Floyd, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers, 27 May 1917*

But for the rumble of the guns on both sides of us and the periodical sound of the shells flying over our heads, the Véry lights and the occasional rat-tat of a machine gun, there was little in the peaceful, moonlit countryside to suggest to us the fact that we were between our own lines and those of the enemy

*2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Thomas Floyd, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers, 7 July 1917*

I am looking forward to the happy days to come and intend to have a good time then. We are now going through the storm. But there is a calm ahead: 'Peace shall follow battle. Night shall end in day'

*2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Thomas Floyd, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers, 15 July 1917*

Germans are not half so vile as they are painted....How fine it would be if we could let bygones be bygones, shake hands, and lead the world in peace and civilization side by side!

*2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Thomas Floyd, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers, 3 August 1917 from a hospital bed in England*

I have made a discovery – you never realise the full value of peace until you are deprived of it and living in hourly danger of being deprived of life itself

*2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Eric Duckworth, 1/6<sup>th</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers, to his mother June 1915 from Gallipoli, some 2 months before his death in combat*

When the trenches are filled in, and the plough has gone over them, the ground will not long keep the look of war. One summer with its flowers will cover most of the ruin that man can make

*John Masefield, 1917*

There is much happiness in wartime, much that is spirited, much that is admirable, much that is jolly

*HEL Mellersch, a twice wounded infantry officer*

It seemed quite unthinkable that there was another trench over there a few yards away just like our own...For everything was so paralysed in calm, so unnaturally innocent and bland and balmy. You simply could not take it in

*Reginald Farrar, 1916*

The Gramophone was Anathema to me before this War because it was abused so much. But all is changed now, and it is the only means of bringing back to us the days that are gone, and helping one through the Ivory gate that leads to fairy land or Heaven, whatever one likes to call it.

*J Lawrence Fry from the Western Front to Sir Edward Elgar*

At that moment of realization I knew that I had been blind because I had wished not to see; it was only then that I realised, at last, that all these dead men, French and

Germans, were brothers, and I was the brother of them all. *Ernst Toller, German playwright*

I will not leave a corner of my consciousness covered up, but saturate myself with the strange and extraordinary new conditions of this life, and it will all refine itself into poetry later on.

*Isaac Rosenberg, killed near Arras, April 1918*

I was walking along the trench and saw one of my platoon delousing himself but instead of killing the lice like the rest of us, he was putting them on the firing step. I remonstrated with him, but all he said (was) "there is enough killing here, let the little (pests?) live and he meant it.

*Private C Steele, 1/8 Lancashire Fusiliers, Gallipoli, summer 1915*

## HOME FRONT

In September 1914 "peace insurance" was offered by some companies with pay-outs if the war had not ended by 1 January or 15 September 1915

A pub called "The Gunmakers Arms" in the Old Ford Road in the East End of London was converted into a canteen and welfare centre run by the London Women's Suffrage Federation and re-named "The Mother's Arms"

Strange to say only actual achievement for freedom in this war has been that of the Russian army as politicians and not as soldiers. They said with one voice, there shall be freedom in Russia and they made a bloodless revolution, they used no swords  
*Lady Rosalind Carlisle, 1917*

All over Europe and in our land the forces of war are being mobilised. I would fain mobilise the forces of peace in our town... Cannot we mobilise to create such an atmosphere of passionate love and earnest goodwill as shall serve to beat back and overcome this torrent of hatred that has been let loose to the undoing of Europe?  
*Correspondent to Rochdale Observer 1 August 1914*

It is difficult to realise from local conditions that England is at war. Everywhere in our town nature suggests smiling peace  
*The Harrogate Herald, 12 August 1914*

## CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

Not all conscientious objectors were entirely laudable. Lytton Strachey's alleged comment "I am the civilisation they are fighting for" is pompous and arrogant

Though not prepared to fight the Germans they had courage of the kind which in times past led men to the stake for their convictions  
*H Cartmell, 1919*

## PEACE MOVEMENT

In February 1915 fifteen hundred women delegates representing Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Britain, Hungary, Italy, Holland, Norway, Sweden and the United States met in Holland to discuss ways of ending the war. As a result of the conference an International Women's Peace Party was formed

We women declare the war, the last word in men's statesmanship, to be madness. War.....seeks to destroy everything that the creative forces of humanity have built up over centuries

*The International Congress of Women, The Hague, 1915*

If they expect us to turn murderous weapons against our brothers in France or elsewhere, we will shout "We will not do that!"

*Rosa Luxemburg, 1913*

There could be nothing negative in the idea of peace. War is the negative. Peace is the highest effort of the human brain applied to the organisation of the life and being of the peoples of the world on the basis of cooperation

*Emmeline Pethwick-Lawrence*

## USEFUL BOOKS

Max Arthur, *Forgotten Voices of the Great War*, London 2002

Gordon Corrogan, *Sepoys in the Trenches: The Indian Corps on the Western Front 1914-15*, Staplehurst 1999

Will Ellsworth-Jones, *We Will Not Fight*, London 2013

Adrian Gregory, *The Last Great War: British Society and the First World War*, Cambridge 2008

Max Hastings, *Catastrophe: Europe Goes to War 1914*, London 2013

Richard Holmes, *Tommy: The British Soldier on the Western Front 1914-1918*, London 2004

Paul Moorhouse, *The Great War in Portraits*, London 2014

Jeremy Paxman, *Great Britain's Great War*, London 2013

David Reynolds, *The Long Shadow: The Great War and the Twentieth Century*, London 2013

## USEFUL LINKS

<http://www.historypin.com/en/explore/first-world-war-centenary/the-digital-war-memorial/the-courage-of-conviction/>

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/first-world-war-home-front>

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/history/first-world-war-fighting-front>

<http://www.historypin.com/channels/view/64#!collections/view/id/4956/title/A%20Digital%20Scrapbook>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/leedslibraryandinformationservice/sets/72157647433242371/>