

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

THE INTERESTING FACTS OF WORLD WAR I

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WORLD WAR I 1914-1918



World War 1 began on July 28, 1914. The conflict lasted four years, three months and 14 days. The WW1 ended at 11 o'clock in the morning of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.(November 11, 1918.)

Here are some of the most interesting and unusual facts about World War One that you probably haven't heard before.



“Over the top”



British Army generals were banned from going “over the top”. A stereotype of the war was that people high up in the military were afraid to fight and used the ordinary soldiers instead. Actually, there were so many British generals that wanted to fight they had to be banned. This was because if they were killed, the experience of a general would be lost and make it more difficult to fight the war.



Battle of Messines (1917)

While the war raged on in the mud and trenches, a very different war was taking place beneath the soldiers' feet. A group of miners, operating in total secrecy, dug tunnels up to 100ft underground, to plant and detonate mines beneath the enemy's trenches. Their biggest success was at Messines Ridge in Belgium where over 900,000lbs of explosives were simultaneously detonated in 19 underground tunnels. Much of the German front line was destroyed, and the explosions were heard 140 miles away by the British prime minister in Downing St.



Well - Known Volunteers

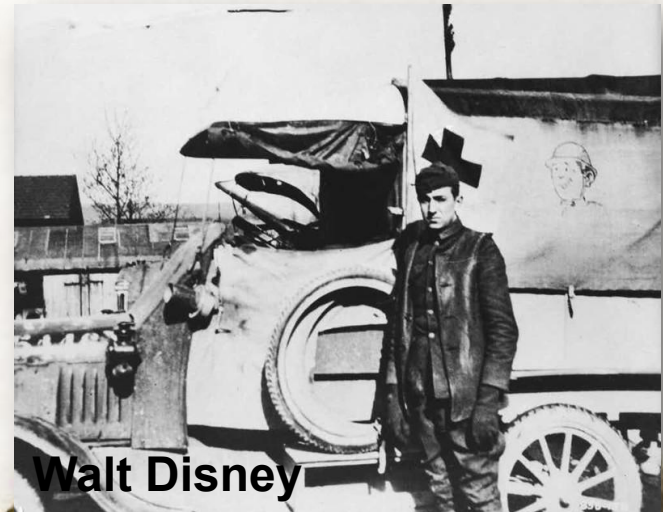


Agatha Christie

- A 16-year-old Walt Disney joined the Red Cross in September 1918 as an ambulance driver. Disney attempted to join the United States Army to fight against the Germans, but he was rejected for being too young. Among other well - known volunteers were Agatha Christie who worked as a nurse in a hospital and Vera Britten, who worked as a Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse for much of the First World War. Vera Britten lost her brother, fiancé and two best friends in the war.

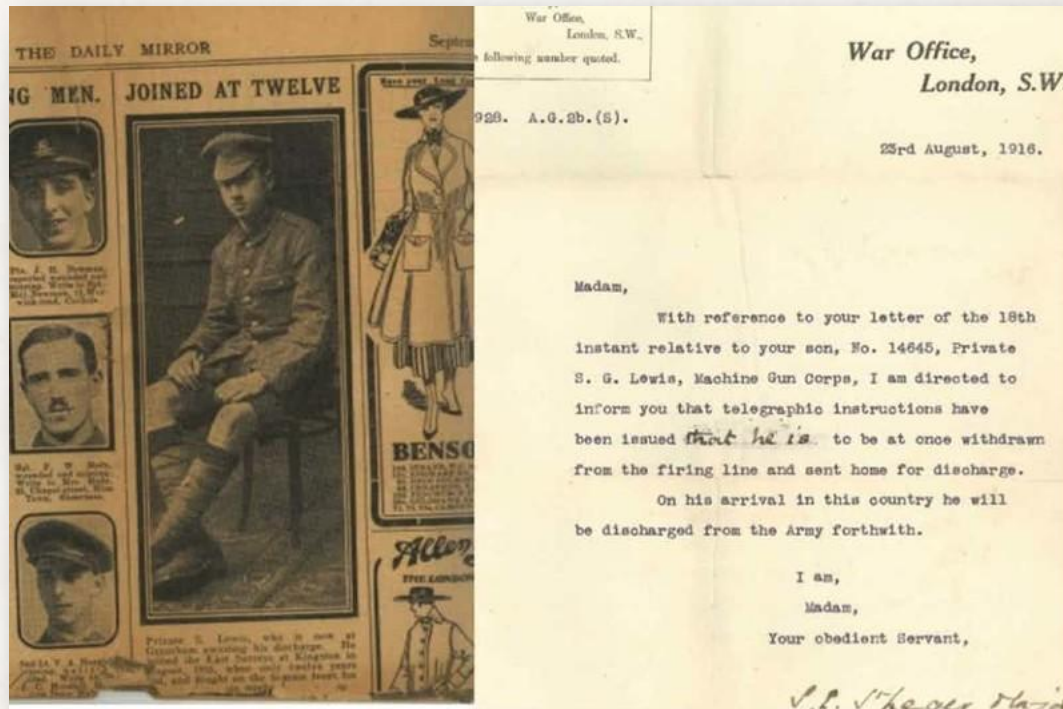


Vera Britten



Walt Disney

The youngest British soldier



Sidney Lewis was just 12 years old when he lied about his age and joined the army during World War One. Lewis was only thirteen when he spent six weeks fighting the Somme (the battle of Somme is one of the biggest and bloodiest battles of world war I). He was one of thousands of eager underage boys who enlisted and ended up fighting alongside their adult counterparts on the front. Some were motivated by patriotism, but for others it was an escape from their dreary lives.

Fake Paris

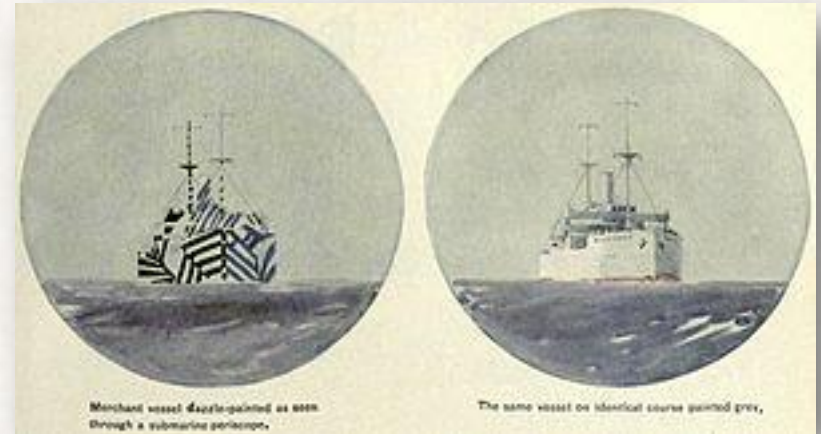


- During WWI the French launched an initiative to waste the German's time and bombs. Fake Paris, built near the real city with long railways and roads in the hopes the Germans would bomb it instead of the real city, was a genius plan saved countless lives.



Dazzle Camouflage

It was crucial to protect the merchant ships carrying the food and military supplies to the front from enemy torpedoes. Norman Wilkinson, an artist and Royal Navy volunteer came up with the idea of covering ships in bold shapes and violent contrasts of colour.



The complete opposite of normal camouflage, dazzle camouflage was supposed to confuse the enemy rather than conceal the ships.



Cher Ami



A WW1 homing pigeon Cher Ami saved 194 men by delivering a message despite losing a leg, an eye and having been shot through the chest. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre - the highest French honor - for her bravery and the fact that he managed to save so many lives.



Plastic surgery



- Plastic surgery was invented because of the First World War. Surgeon Harold Gillies helped shrapnel victims who had terrible facial injuries with one of the earliest examples of plastic surgery. The twisted metal caused many facial injuries that were far worse than a straight-line wound of a bullet. The techniques used by Dr Gillies pioneered the techniques for facial reconstructive surgery.



Women football

Thanks to women football as a sport in the UK did not die. After the war, football clubs fell into decline, because all the players went to fight. And their place was taken by women.

They were factory workers who organized football teams and continued to arrange football matches across the country. These teams had a success even after the war, but in 1921 women were kicked out of the football League.



“A Soldier Of The Great War Known Unto God.”

- 11 million soldiers were killed in the First world war, thousands of them were unknown. It was not always possible to bury the fallen with dignity. Sometimes a huge mass grave had to be dug. The UK tried to bury every fallen in a separate grave with Rudyard Kipling's words on the tombstone : “A Soldier Of The Great War Known Unto God.” Rudyard Kipling lost his son John in this war.



**THANKS FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**

