

# A Miller's Tale

written by Peter Daniel  
design by Camilla Bergman



The Christmas truce, 25 December, 1914.  
National Army Museum.

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John Louis Muller.  
*Photograph from Jill Maybury  
(relative of John Louis Muller)*

This book is dedicated to John Louis Muller who changed his surname to Miller and fought in the Royal Artillery in the Great War. John was killed by a German bomb on the first day of 'The Blitz' on 7th September, 1940.

# INTRODUCTION



As a country we have deeply ingrained feelings about Germany which still come to the surface every time England plays them at football.

On the evening of 26th June, 1996 England fans rampaged through Trafalgar Square after England's defeat to Germany in the semi-final of the Euro 96 tournament. Before the game, The Daily Mirror covered its pages in anti-German stereotypes. This was not the first time anti-German riots had been inspired by such reporting. Eighty-one years before something very similar had happened.

On the 12th May, 1915, rioters across London effectively destroyed the largest immigrant community in the capital. They were seeking to avenge the sinking of the RMS Lusitania by a German submarine. Just as rioters in 1996 attacked every Volkswagen or BMW they could find, rioters in 1915 destroyed any shop that bore a German name. By 1919 only 20,000 of the 100,000 Germans living in Britain prior to 1914 remained. Those that did often changed their names to avoid victimisation.

A Miller's Tale seeks to tell the story of this community in the years 1914-1918 and also why football and war have been constantly linked in the British media ever since. In telling this story much use is made of archive material linked to Chelsea F.C., the Queen's Westminster Rifles and the 17th (Football) Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment.

The fictional character of Albert Miller was inspired by two real life soldiers of the Great War. John Louis Muller, who changed his name to Miller to fight against his parents homeland, and Sergeant Richard 'Monty' Daniel, my grandfather's uncle, who was tragically killed on the Somme on 26th October 1916.

**Peter Daniel**

Education and Interpretation Officer  
Westminster Archives 2007

**WHO  
Do you  
think  
you're  
kidding  
Mister  
Hitman?**

Daily Mirror anti-German headline before the Euro '96 semi-final between England and Germany.

# 1996

## A Miller's Tale

The Memorial scroll for the Queen's Westminster Rifles was tucked away against the wall of Westminster Abbey. A few feet away lay the grand tomb of the Unknown Warrior, which for most of the tourists gathered in the Abbey that Remembrance Day, was all they wanted to see. The scroll in its wooden casket was invisible to most of them. It hadn't always been like that. Once, each elaborately scripted name on the scroll was linked to a grieving family in a nearby street. Now the names, like the memories, were fading with each passing year.

For Jason Miller, however, this was the only thing he wanted to see. He wasn't interested in anything else. It was exactly where old Joe had told him it would be. He just wanted to see it for himself, as a way of saying thank you to Joe and all the men at the Royal Hospital he'd come to know over the past twelve weeks.

Jason knew that he was a very lucky man. He'd got off lightly and he knew it. Community service at the Royal Hospital for his part in the riots after the England v Germany semi-final match was far less than he'd expected.

The papers made him laugh though, they were as much to blame as he was for what happened. They'd helped to stir things up and were now looking for scapegoats. Luckily, the same couldn't be said of the Chelsea Pensioners he'd met at the Royal hospital. They had been so kind to him that he found himself unusually conscientious, cleaning the war memorials along the central colonnade of the hospital. "Each name a personal tragedy," Old Joe had told him over tea.

When the work was finished Old Joe gave him a small parcel to thank him for his work. He didn't tell him what it was, just that it would help him, 'find himself.' When Jason got home and opened the parcel he found a small book full of poems that must have dated back to the First World War. Most of them were linked to Old Joe's regiment, 'The Queen's Westminister Rifles.' Jason read all of them but was drawn to one poem, 'A Miller's Tale.' Old Joe had bookmarked it for him and so Jason began to read.



Anti-German headline from the Daily Mirror before the Euro '96 semi-final between England and Germany.



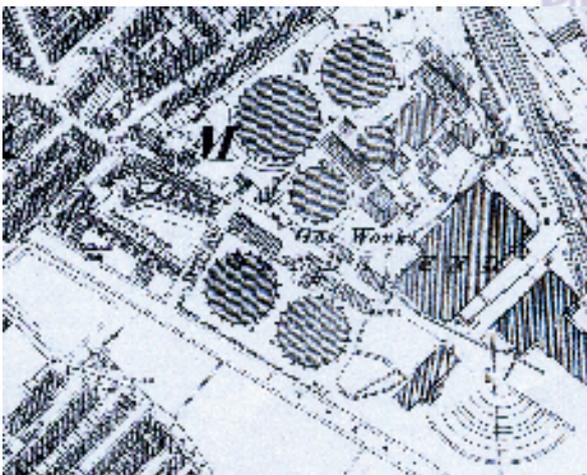
Chelsea pensioners at the Royal Hospital. *Westminster Archives, PJD.*

# 1905

## A Miller's Tale

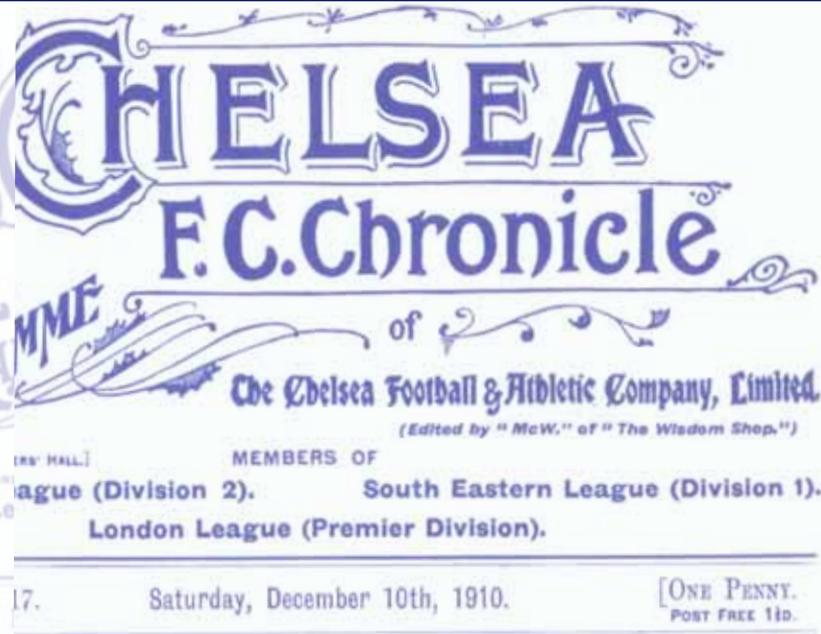
Fourth of September 1905,  
Albert Muller was there that day,  
Hand in Hand with his proud father  
To see the Blues first play.

Although some would have you believe that immigration is a relatively new phenomenon, in 1914 it was estimated that there were 100,000 Germans living and working in Britain, with at least 53,000 living in London itself. Many worked as waiters, clerks, bakers or butchers. However, as a consequence of the Great War this figure declined to just over 20,000 by 1919.

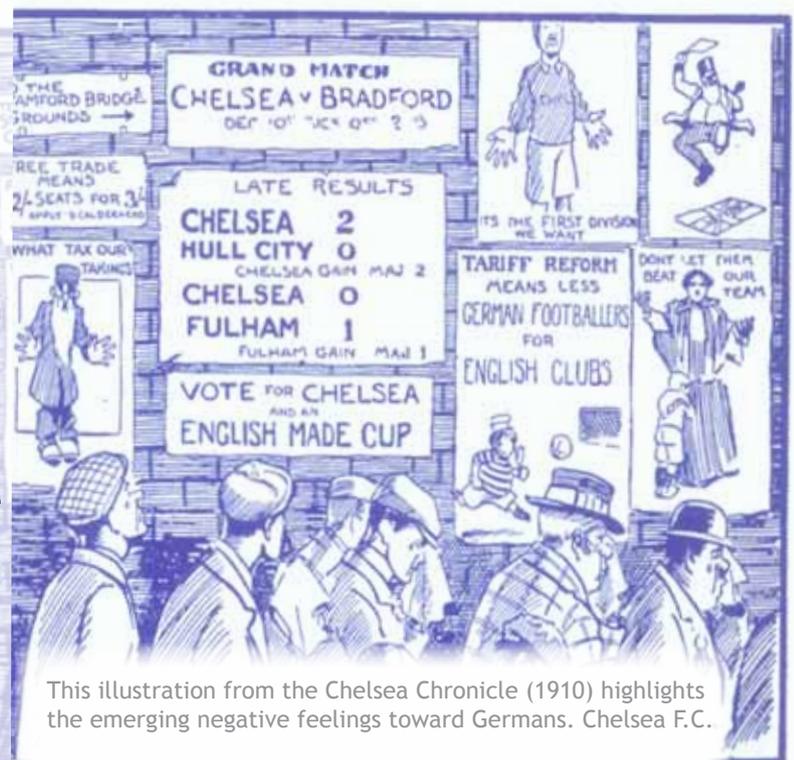


"German Square," Sands End, Fulham.  
*Hammersmith & Fulham Archives.*

There were 2,010 Germans living in Westminster in 1911, with a large community living in Soho and working as waiters or as tailors. Large German communities existed in St Marylebone (730) and Paddington (1,176). Further west, Imperial Square, Fulham, came to be known as 'German Square' because it was dominated by Germans who worked in the nearby Imperial Gas and Coke Works. The rise of Germany as a great economic power in the Edwardian period made life difficult for this community. Calls were made to protect British industry through tariffs, prompting the Chelsea Chronicle (1910) to joke about the effect it would have on German players.



SOMEWHERE THE SUN IS SHINING.



This illustration from the Chelsea Chronicle (1910) highlights the emerging negative feelings toward Germans. Chelsea F.C.

# 1905

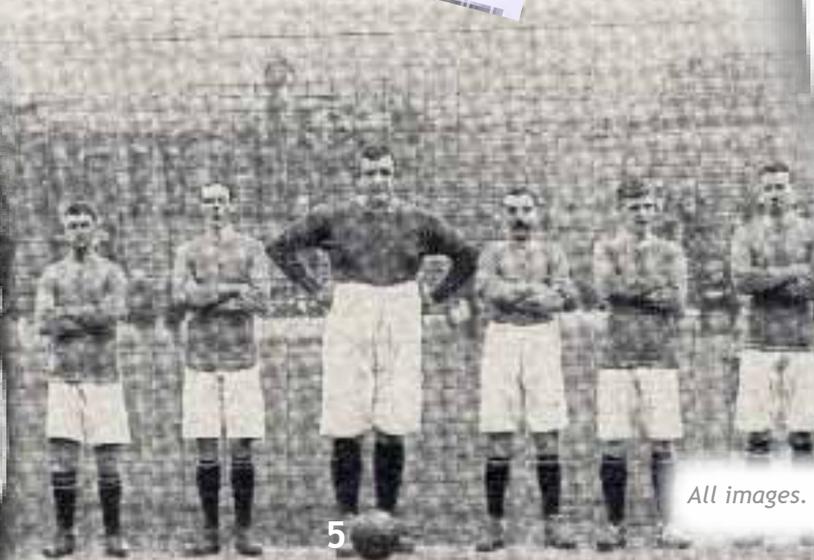
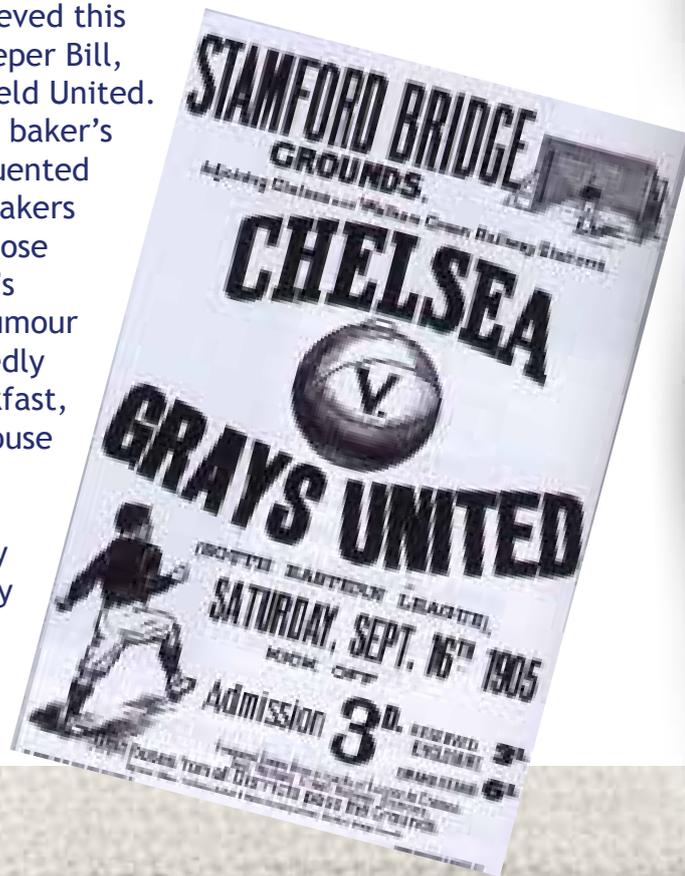
## A Miller's Tale

Bert's dad, a German baker,  
Sold bread to near and far,  
But now this boy's passion was football,  
To be a future Chelsea star.

Fatty Foulke was his first hero,  
"Twenty-four stone and that ain't lies,"  
A baker's friend if ever there was,  
"Cos he ate all the pies!"

When Gus Mears formed Chelsea in 1905 he needed a crowd pleaser to attract local support to a football club which had been built from scratch and consequently had no existing fan base. He achieved this by signing 24 stone goalkeeper Bill, "Fatty" Foulke from Sheffield United. Foulke was undoubtedly 'a baker's friend' and may have frequented one of the many German bakers in Fulham with premises close to Stamford Bridge. Fatty's appetite was legendary. Rumour had it that he single handedly devoured the team's breakfast, whilst staying in a guest house before Chelsea's Second Division match away to Glossop, which led to Fatty being given his own song by fans. The infamous, 'Who ate all the pies is still sung with gusto by fans across the country to this day!

"Fatty Foulke"



All images. Chelsea F.C.

# 1909

## A Miller's Tale

But Fatty soon left Stamford Bridge  
And left the stage so bare,  
'Til a man named Vivian Woodward  
Strode onto the scene with flair.

Woodward was a sporting gent  
Who played a stylish game,  
The dream of lining up with him  
Was Bert's undying aim.

Fatty Foulke left Chelsea after only one full season, leaving a huge void for the club to fill. They never really succeeded in doing this until they managed to persuade the famous amateur England international, Vivian Woodward, to join them from Spurs.

“Chelsea’s New Star” was an immediate success with fans, even if he couldn’t help them to avoid dropping back into the old Second Division. Known as “Football’s gentleman”, Woodward was an all round sportsman who had already won Olympic gold as Captain of the Great Britain football team in 1908, and was destined to repeat this feat at the 1912 Olympic games. As club captain in 1914, Woodward was used to inspire fans to join the newly formed Football Battalion-(17th Battalion,

The Middlesex Regiment), whose formation had been the idea of William Joynson-Hicks, an extreme anti-German M.P.

Evening News. *British Library Newspapers.*

**Vivian Woodward, Great Amateur, Dies Aged 74**  
By J. G. ORANGE

Vivian J. Woodward, one of the greatest players for several England sides, died last night, aged 74, at a nursing home in London. He had been ill for four years.

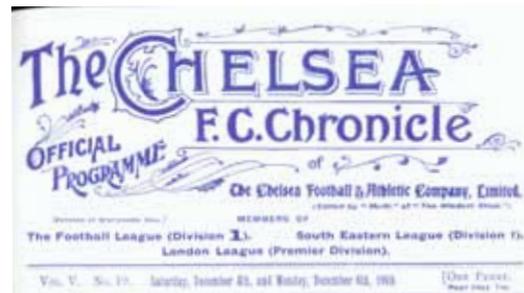
Woodward had a most likeable character. He was a director of Tottenham Hotspur as well as



Union Woodward an early picture taken in his international days

Great goalscorer. He was also a director of Chelsea and had the time he played for them. For many years he was Tottenham's goalscorer and he played for Chelsea and other clubs.

He was an all-round sportsman. He was a member of the Olympic team and he had won the Olympic gold medal in 1908. He was also a member of the England team and he had played for them in 1908 and 1912.



Chelsea F.C.

Vivian Woodward.  
Roy Brazier



Vivian Woodward in the 17th Football Battalion. *National Army Museum.*

# 1914

## A Miller's Tale

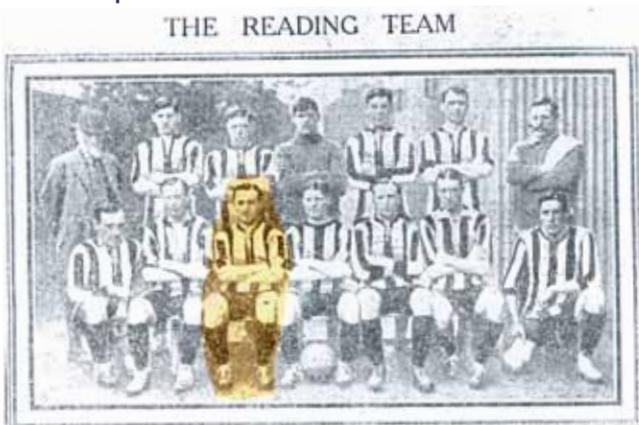
But something was to change that day,  
Archduke Franz Ferdinand was shot.  
A fate sealed for every man,  
English, German or not.

The Muller's world was at war,  
They felt lost and all alone,  
One land bore their ancestors  
The other was their home.

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo started a chain of events that brought Britain to declare war on Germany on August 4th, 1914. Plans were immediately put into effect to intern the 'enemy in our midst.'

One London based German family who experienced mixed fortunes at the outbreak of World War One were the Seeburgs.

Max Paul Seeburg was born at Leipzig, Germany, on 19th September 1884 and was only two when his family moved to London in 1886 to set up a fur shop near Tower Bridge. Football quickly became his passion and he joined Chelsea, at the end of their very first season. He never broke into the Chelsea first team but his performance for Chelsea's South Eastern League team persuaded Spurs to buy him for £30 in May 1907. At Spurs, Max became the first German born player to play in the Football League and later went on to play for Burnley and Grimsby before joining Reading for the 1912-1913 season. At Reading, he was so well thought of that he quickly became their club captain.



Max Seeburg and his Reading team mates.  
Reading Football Chronicle. *British Library Newspapers.*



Front page of Austrian newspaper reporting the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Westminster Archives, PJD.

Reading Mercury.  
*British Library Newspapers.*

### THE SPY PERIL.

#### ALIENS ARRESTED IN READING.

On Wednesday, by a special order from the Home Office, the museums were taken throughout the country, and all enemy aliens from the list of watching.

Despite being a local football celebrity and a popular pub landlord, Seeburg was interned for a short period at the outbreak of World War One. Although released soon afterwards, his German heritage meant that he had to give up the lease of his pub under the rules imposed by the Aliens Restrictions Act and he never really got over what had happened to him.

Max Seeburg's internship was particularly ironic as his brother Frank was serving in the Middlesex Regiment as a soldier at the time. Despite his treatment Max remained in England afterwards to become a carpenter by trade. He died in 1972.

# 1914

## A Miller's Tale

To recruit the fans at Stamford Bridge  
A khaki Colonel came,  
“Come, for God’s sake you’re wanted boys  
to play the ‘Greater Game.’”

Bert’s hero Vivian Woodward  
Had joined the Footy Volunteers,  
And called for fans to join him now  
And forget about their fears.



Punch magazine



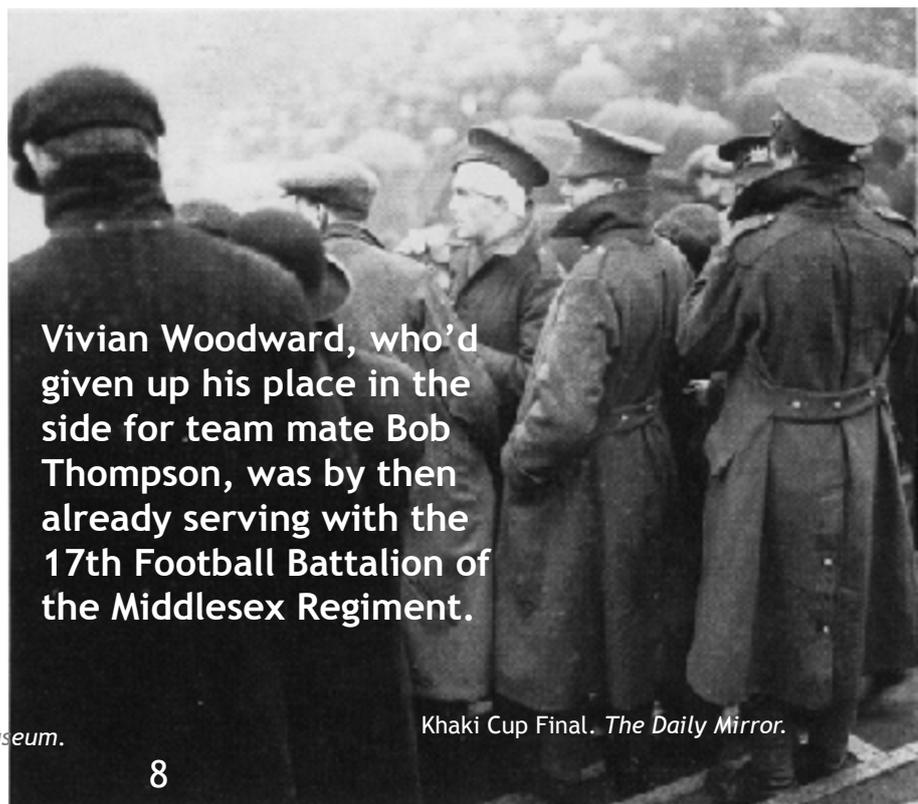
Recruitment posters. National Army Museum.



Imperial War Museum.

*‘You have played with one another and against one another for the Cup; play with another for England now.’*  
Lord Derby, F.A. Cup Final, Old Trafford, 24th April 1915

As Lord Kitchener pushed for 100,000 new recruits to join the army, the Football League came under pressure to abandon the league programme so that both fans and players could ‘play the greater game.’ This did not happen until after the 1915 ‘Khaki Cup Final’ which Chelsea lost 3-0 to Sheffield United.



Vivian Woodward, who’d given up his place in the side for team mate Bob Thompson, was by then already serving with the 17th Football Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment.

Khaki Cup Final. The Daily Mirror.



National Army Museum.

# 1915

# A Miller's Tale

Then the Blues reached their first final,  
a 'Khaki Cup at that,  
But the Blades did for poor Bert's Chelsea  
To leave him feeling flat.

Vivian Woodward's former Chelsea team mate, Bob 'Pom Pom' Whiting, also became a 'Diehard' and was later killed at Vimy Ridge on 26th April, 1917.

Whiting had been given the nickname 'Pom Pom' because fans thought that his powerful kicking could be compared to a gun of the same name.

'Pom Pom,' who had replaced Fatty Foulke as Chelsea's goalkeeper, had joined up as a Brighton player. He was sadly missed by fans across the country when the Football League resumed in 1919.



Pom Pom Whiting images. Chelsea F.C.



Walter Tull images. Phil Vasili.



Chronicles of the Chelsea Football Club.

CHELSEA F.C. PROFILES. No. 17.

Benny Watson is an unmistakable Londoner. He was born at West Ham, where now a days all youngsters learn to kick a football as soon as they can toddle. As the result of the Norwich City v. Tunbridge Wells cup-tie he suddenly became famous. Everybody was talking of the way in which the comparatively unknown goalkeeper kept the whole of the Southern League Team at bay for ninety minutes, defying all attempts to beat him. He was captured by Chelsea for reserve goalkeeper, and the subsequent accident to Micky Byrne in the first match of this season gave Whiting a place in the League team which he has kept ever since. He has about the strongest



kick of any goalkeeper now playing, and with very little assistance from the wind can head the ball from a goal-kick pretty well in the penalty line at the opposite end. Homely nickname of "Don Don." If he does not possess intuitive anticipation in a very marked degree, he is quite at home with "moping" shots, and would probably stop anything short of a corner-kick. The harder they come the better he likes it. We do not think he has ever been charged into the net. Many opponents have tried to do so — one — but few, if any, have made a second attempt. Pom Pom has just turned 23, he stands 5 ft. 10½ ins. and weighs 13 at 6 lbs.

"Pom Pom."

However, the most celebrated member of the Football Battalion was ex-Spurs and Northampton player, **Walter Tull**. Having been Britain's first Black professional outfield player, Tull became Britain's first Black combat officer before his tragic death at the Second Battle of the Somme on March 25th, 1918.

Tull had joined the Football Battalion at the outbreak of War and soon proved himself as a soldier. He was recommended for a Military Cross whilst serving in Italy but never received his medal

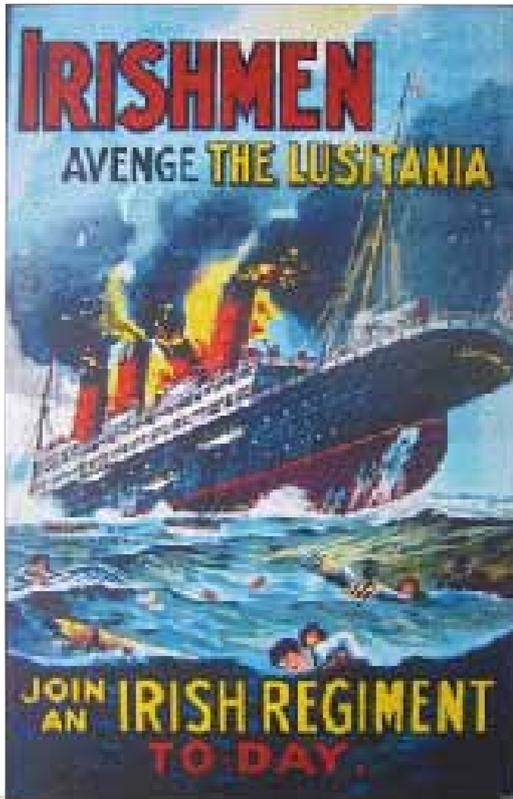
# 1915

## A Miller's Tale

That May Lusitania was lost,  
In Fulham things turned bitter,  
German folk were under attack  
To avenge those who went down with her.

One night angry crowds met  
Outside his father's shop.  
With stones in hand they hoped  
To smash the place from tip to top.

The news that 1,198 lives had been lost, following the sinking of the Lusitania by a German submarine on May 7th, 1915, led to major disorder in central London. On May 12th, Archibald Walker recorded in his diary how strong anti-German feeling had grown.



Irish Regiment recruitment poster.  
Westminster Archives, PJD.



The Steils bakery.  
Hammersmith & Fulham Archives.

In Fulham, a German baker's shop, H.P. Steil of Wandsworth Bridge Road was only saved by an heroic local vicar: 'It was left to the Rev. H.B. Thompson of Christchurch, Studdridge Street to protect the premises. He had been a witness of other rioting, and now, standing on the doorstep with arms extended, he cried, to the demonstrators who had arrived "If you throw, you hit me". This was too much for the crowd and Mr Steil's shop was saved.'  
Fulham Chronicle, 1915

ANTI-GERMAN RIOTS.  
Organised Raids on Alien Bakers and Butchers.  
... with Bricks and...



The anti German feeling is strong and people fear riots and trouble; the city seem to expect that there will be a lot of damage done to property held by Germans over here. Mrs Mackinnon's "Christian brothers" will be inturmed for their own safety probably, and no bad thing for the country.

# 1915

# A Miller's Tale

But to the family's rescue  
A righteous Reverend came,  
His words snuffed out the violence  
And spoiled the mob's foul aim.

But the name of Muller died  
On that angry hate-filled day,  
A proud name lost forever  
To the family's dismay.

Shortly after the declaration of war, the Northcliffe newspapers, The Times and The Daily Mail objected to the fact that many Germans were changing their names. Following the demands of Football Battalion founder, William Joynson-Hicks, M.P., the government rushed through the Aliens Restriction (Change of Name) Order which forbade alien enemies from using any names which they had assumed since the outbreak of war, unless they had obtained the permission of the Home Secretary. This put a great deal of pressure on those who were now forced to keep their Germanic surnames. Many individuals placed adverts in the local press to confirm their allegiance to Britain, whilst companies like Jaeger were forced to take out adverts stating that they were British Companies. Inevitably the most prominent family of all, the Royal family, changed their name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to the more English Windsor.

Horatio Bottomley's patriotic journal, *John Bull*, urged readers to make the anti-German pledge and send it to their offices in Victoria Street. Bottomley and Joynson-Hicks were part of a loose group of right wing radicals who were obsessed with the 'enemy within' and advocated extreme action.



The Pledge.  
Hammersmith & Fulham Archives.



Jaeger Advert.  
Westminster Archives.



Image symbolising the Royals change of name.  
Westminster Archives, PJD.



Advert.  
Hammersmith & Fulham Archives.



# 1916

## A Miller's Tale

To prove himself a patriot  
He joined the Westminsters  
And to his age, Bert Miller now,  
Added extra years.

Pretty girls and Lord Kitchener  
Declared it would be so much fun,  
Back home in Fulham for Christmas,  
But they didn't say which one.



Private Leslie Walkinton of the Queen's Westminster Rifles had been inspired to join up by the heroic image of Kitchener on the famous recruitment poster. He met his hero at a parade following combat training at Leverstock Green, Herts. He was unimpressed:

*'He was very different from the picture postcard hero that I knew so well. Instead of a smart, upright, devil may care soldier, I saw a depressed and harassed old man.'*

YOUR KING  
AND COUNTRY  
NEED YOU.

A CALL TO ARMS.

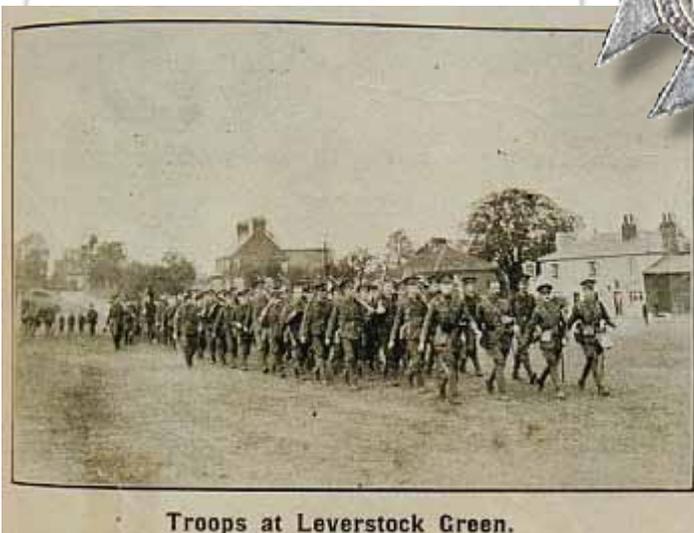
Hammersmith & Fulham Archives.



Sketch of Leslie Walkinton from his book *Twice in A Lifetime*. Westminster Archives, PJD.



Westminster Archives, PJD.



Troops at Leverstock Green.

Leverstock Green Chronicle



This cartoon was drawn by Messian Charles W. Ingle, R.M.B., who is serving in H.M.S. King Edward VII, and represents his interpretation of the moral men's admiration of Lord Kitchener's marvellously organised Army.

Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre

# 1916

## A Miller's Tale

Atop a London bus in France  
Unto a muddy trench,  
Here Bert learned to combat cold  
And the misery and the stench.

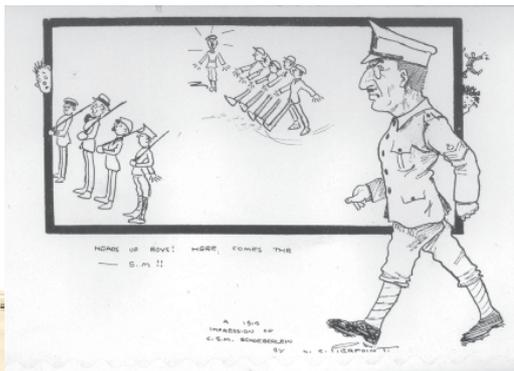
The Westminsters arrived in France on 3rd November 1914, naively confident that the war would be over by Christmas and long before Company Sergeant Major Schoeberlein had a chance to join them. Despite his German parentage, Schoeberlein was feared and respected by all the men. He'd been left behind at Buckingham Gate to raise recruits for a 2nd battalion.

However, by the time Christmas came the Westminsters had come to learn the reality of trench warfare:

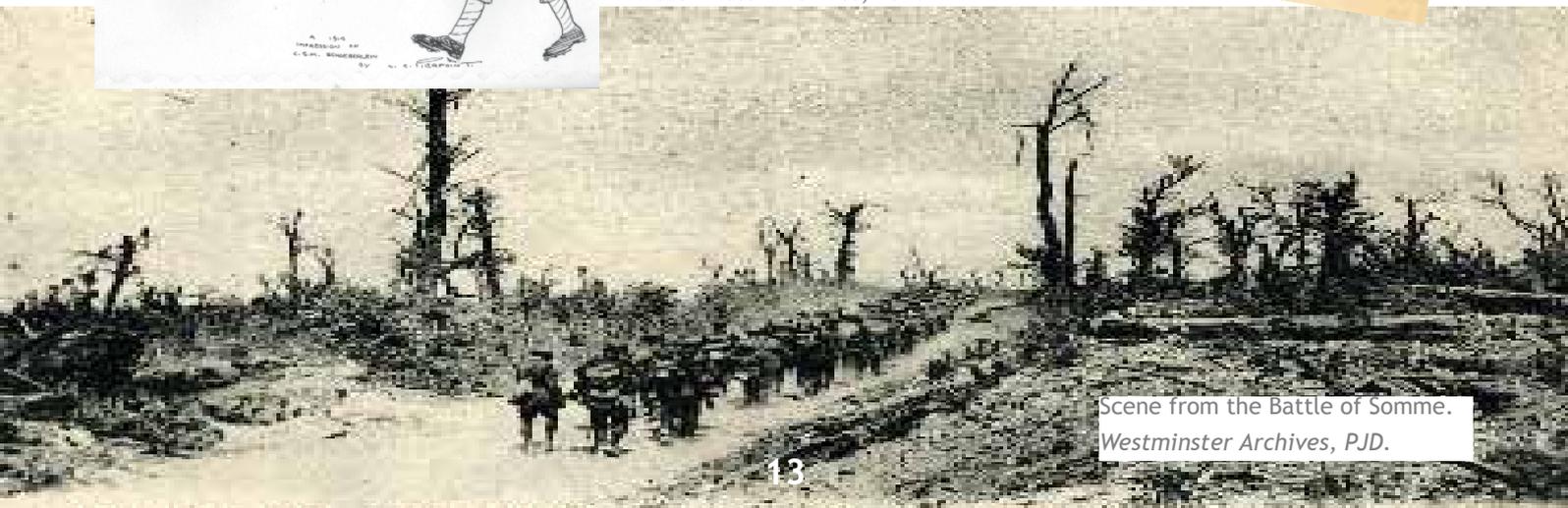
*"Think of your old pal sleeping on a waterproof sheet laid on cold wet day, with all his clothes and overcoat on - both of which are sodden with clay - and covered with a soaking wet blanket."* Rifleman Frank Morley, Queen's Westminister Rifles, 26th December 1914.



Double decker London buses carry soldiers to the front in France. Westminster Archives, PJD.



Sergeant Major Schoeberlein. Westminster Archives, PJD.



Scene from the Battle of Somme. Westminster Archives, PJD.

# 1916

## A Miller's Tale

As Bert lay waiting for the dawn  
Of the first day of July,  
He heard Old Jack's tale of Christmas past,  
Which made him want to cry.

Jack told him of a Christmas Eve,  
Two hate filled years gone by,  
A 'Silent Night', when German song  
Blessed the winter sky.

**C**hristmas 1914, found the Queen's Westminister Rifles in flooded trenches opposite the Saxon 107th Regiment in the Rue du Bois. The first hints of a truce came on Christmas Eve:

*'We had decided to give the Germans a Christmas present of three carols. We started the strains of "While Shepherds". We finished that and paused preparatory to giving the second item on the programme. (a volley of rifle fire!) But lo! We heard answering strains arising from their lines!'*

Rifleman F. Morley Queen's Westminister Rifles, letter December 26th 1914.



Sketch of Rifleman F. Morley. Imperial War Museum.



*"You will be very much surprised to hear I had one of the best Christmas Days I have had for years. On Christmas Eve I went to the trenches and the Germans were singing carols to our men and we were singing to them. They then shouted to us, "A Merry Christmas, British comrades. You English are fine singers."*

Rifleman E. E. Meadley, Queen's Westminister Rifles, Letter in Northampton Daily Echo and Mercury. January 15th 1915

## THE POWER OF PEACE IN THE TIME OF WAR THE TRUCE IN THE TRENCHES THAT BROUGHT IN THE NEW YEAR



Picture of German and British Soldiers. 25 December, 1914. Westminster Archives, PJD.

# 1914

## A Miller's Tale

**“Merry Christmas Tommy!”**

**Called the men from over the Rhine,  
As they placed their candle lit Christmas trees  
Across from the English line.**

**R**ifleman Leslie Walkinton, of the Queen's Westminster Rifles, wrote home describing the amazing lights that appeared among the trenches that Christmas:

*‘One of them shouted “A Merry Christmas English, we’re not shooting tonight.” We yelled back a similar message and from that time until we were relieved on Boxing morning at 4 a.m. not a shot was fired. After this shouting had gone on for some time they stuck up a light. Not to be outdone-so did we. Then up went another. So we shoved up another. Soon the lines looked like an illuminated fete.’*

*‘I talked to a German-American who seemed a very pleasant sort of lad. He had never been to England. We tried talking war, but I found him full of newspaper propaganda. He thought that the Germans had made a successful landing in England. I laughed. I told him that we expected to beat Germany by Easter and he roared.’*



German trench Christmas scene.  
Westminster Archives, PJD.



Picture of German and British Soldiers. 25 December, 1914.  
National Army Museum.

# 1914

## A Miller's Tale

To some men there,  
These customs were unknown,  
But their thoughts had turned to Diwali  
And their distant Indian home.



Imperial War Museum.



Westminster Archives, PJD.



Westminster Archives, PJD.

That same Christmas Eve the Indian Garwhal Battalion also saw the German Christmas lights, which reminded the soldiers of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. The word Diwali, in fact, means 'a row of light.' So when the Germans celebrated, and the Indians looked on, they were reminded of home.



German soldiers, Christmas scene.  
Westminster Archives, PJD.

# 1914

## A Miller's Tale

We took with us Princess Mary tins,  
Full of fabulous Christmas gifts,  
Cigarettes changed hands as we knew  
This wasn't a time for rifts.

Then a football mad Tommy  
Brought a leather ball out to the men.  
A game was played which the Germans won,  
A familiar score again.

At Christmas 1914, every soldier received a card from the King and Queen with the message: 'With our best wishes for Christmas 1914. May God protect you and bring you home safe.' Their daughter, Princess Mary, provided a beautifully designed embossed brass box containing cigarettes, tobacco, a Christmas card and a photograph of the Princess herself together with a pipe. Not to be outdone, Lady Rawlinson sent a card and a Christmas pudding to the men of the 4th Corps, who were commanded by her husband.



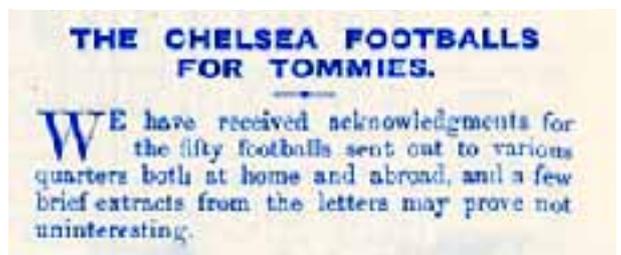
King and Queen of England. Westminster Archives, PJD.

Soldiers on both sides had plenty of gifts with which to barter for souvenirs, as Rifleman Ollis of the Queen's Westminster Rifles described: 'A few hours before we were jolly careful to keep our heads below the parapet and now we were sitting on it, throwing cigarettes and tobacco to our enemies who wandered out into the middle of the lines.'



Princess Mary tins. Westminster Archives, PJD.

Many of the Germans spoke English. Rifleman A.J. Philip struck up conversation in 'No Man's Land' with a German Officer from Catford and elsewhere a German soldier, who'd lived in the Fulham Rd, was keen to find out how Fulham had been getting on! He wasn't the only German football fan. Rifleman William Eve described how the Westminsters played football in 'No Man's Land', whilst on a different part of the Front that Christmas, a Leutnant Johannes Niemann famously described how: 'the Fritzes beat the Tommies by 3-2.'



Chelsea F.C.

Many of the battalions in the line had footballs with them, some sent by clubs like Chelsea, following requests from fans.

**SIMPLY WONDERFUL.**  
**Football Between the British  
and German Trenches.**  
17  
From Rifleman William Eve, of the 1st  
Battalion Queen's Westminsters.

# 1916

# A Miller's Tale

Then Jack showed Bert a wonderous thing,  
A gift from that Christmas past,  
A silver buckle marked "Gott Mit Uns,"  
Tears to Bert's tired eyes came fast.

Fond thoughts of his sweet dear mother  
And those same words she'd said each night,  
Those words meant "God is with us"  
Now they helped to cope with his fright.

On Christmas morning, Rifleman Treloar, of the Queen's Westminster Rifles, returned to his trench with a sample of German ammunition and a button as souvenirs, whilst Rifleman C.H. Brazier 'got one of them to write his name and address on a postcard as a souvenir.'

Some of the Westminsters took things too far and paid the consequences. Riflemen Byng, Sands and Pearce went missing and Sergeant Bernard Brookes was sent out to look for them:

'the Bosches told us that two men the night before had walked into their trench in a state, which proved that they had "drunk of the loving cup, not wisely, but too well". We asked that they should be returned to us, but they refused on account of the fact that these men had seen the position of their machine guns.' They were not the only men who were carried away by the spirit of the occasion. Sergeant Brookes wrote somewhat disapprovingly of a 'Germ' staggering around in women's clothing. However, Rifleman C.H. Brazier's letter seems to suggest Brookes had mistaken the identity of the Christmas Truce cross-dressers:

'...we found old bicycles, top-hats, straw hats, umbrellas etc. We dressed ourselves up in these and went over to the Germans. It seemed so comical to see fellows walking about in top-hats and with umbrellas up. Some rode the bicycles backwards. We had some fine sport and made the Germans laugh.'

List of Casualties for 27<sup>th</sup> / 12 / 14

Regt No	Rank & Name	Nature of Casualty	Date	How disposed of etc.
2570	Lt Brand R	Wound of Wounds	25/12	
2132	" Byng & Lt	Missing		Known to be
1401	" Sands & Lt	- do -	25/12	Safe & not wounded
2466	" Pearce & Lt	- do -		With Remant.
2825	" Hubbar's Lt	Septic Wound	24/12	17/15 = 6
1654	" Simmons Lt	- do -		- do -
1656	" Johnson Lt	Rheumatism		- do -

x. These men foolishly walked into the German trenches one day when there was a sort of an arrangement that no shooting to be done between daylight & dusk! Please don't publish this

Can you send us an Army list. A happy New Year to all  
Yours  
27/12/16 A.H. Brazier

List of Casualties, photograph of Bernard Brooks courtesy of his Grandson, Bob Brookes.



Gott Mitt Uns (God is with us). Westminster Archives, PJD.

AE Weeks of the Queen's Westminister Rifles. Westminster Archives.



# 1916

## A Miller's Tale

Poor Bert knew now that time was short,  
As he faced his fears alone,  
So he scribbled a note by candle light  
To his distant Fulham home.

He ended his note with "Gott Mit Uns,"  
And then waited silently for the dawn.  
The note that was written in his diary,  
Dated July the First was torn.



Postcards of scenes of Fulham.  
Hammersmith & Fulham Archives.



Gott Mitt Uns  
belt buckle  
(God is with us).  
Westminster Archives,  
PJD.

A few days after the 1st July, 1916, the disastrous first day of the Battle of the Somme, John and Edith Engall of Acton in west London were the sad recipients of a letter from their son, 2nd Lieutenant Jack Engall of the Queen's Westminster Rifles. He'd written it a few days before the attack and given it to his senior officer, Captain Barber, to be posted if he failed to return. His letter clearly states his belief that God would be with him when he went over the top:

**Wednesday, 28th June 1916**

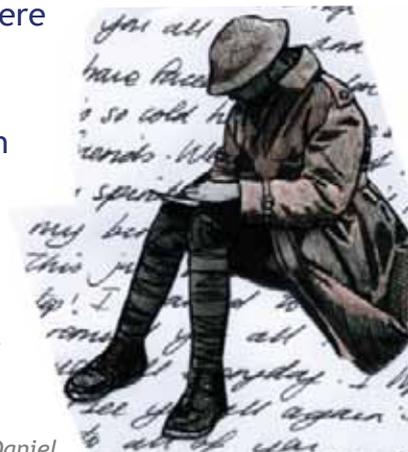
*'My dearest Mother and Dad,  
I am writing this letter today before the most important moment in my life. A moment which, I must admit, I have never prayed for, which thousands of others have, but a moment which, nevertheless, now it has come I would not back out from for all the money in the world.*

*I took my communion yesterday with dozens of others who are going over tomorrow and never have I attended a more impressive service. I placed my soul and body in God's keeping and I am going into battle with His name on my lips full of confidence and trusting implicitly in Him.'*

However, the Germans he was about to face wore "Gott Mit Uns," belt buckles. It meant God is with us. Something they too were equally sure of.

Jack Engall was killed instantly by a shot through the head whilst trying to set up his machine gun to fire at the third line of German trenches at Gommecourt, on that first day of the Battle of the Somme.

Illustration by Julie Daniel.



# 1916

## A Miller's Tale

At first light up strode Captain Swainson  
With a brown leather ball in hand,  
"First man to kick it to German lines  
Gets leave to Eng-er-land."

On 1st, July, 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, the Queen's Westminster Rifles were given the task of launching a diversionary attack at Gommecourt. Of the 750 officers and men who went over the top at 7.30am that day, 600 were killed wounded or missing by the end of it.

One of those to fall that day was 21 year old Francis Gibbon Swainson. He'd won the Military Cross in 1915 and had recently been promoted to Captain. He was gunned down in front of the uncut barbed wire in front of the third line of German trenches leading an heroic but hopeless charge.



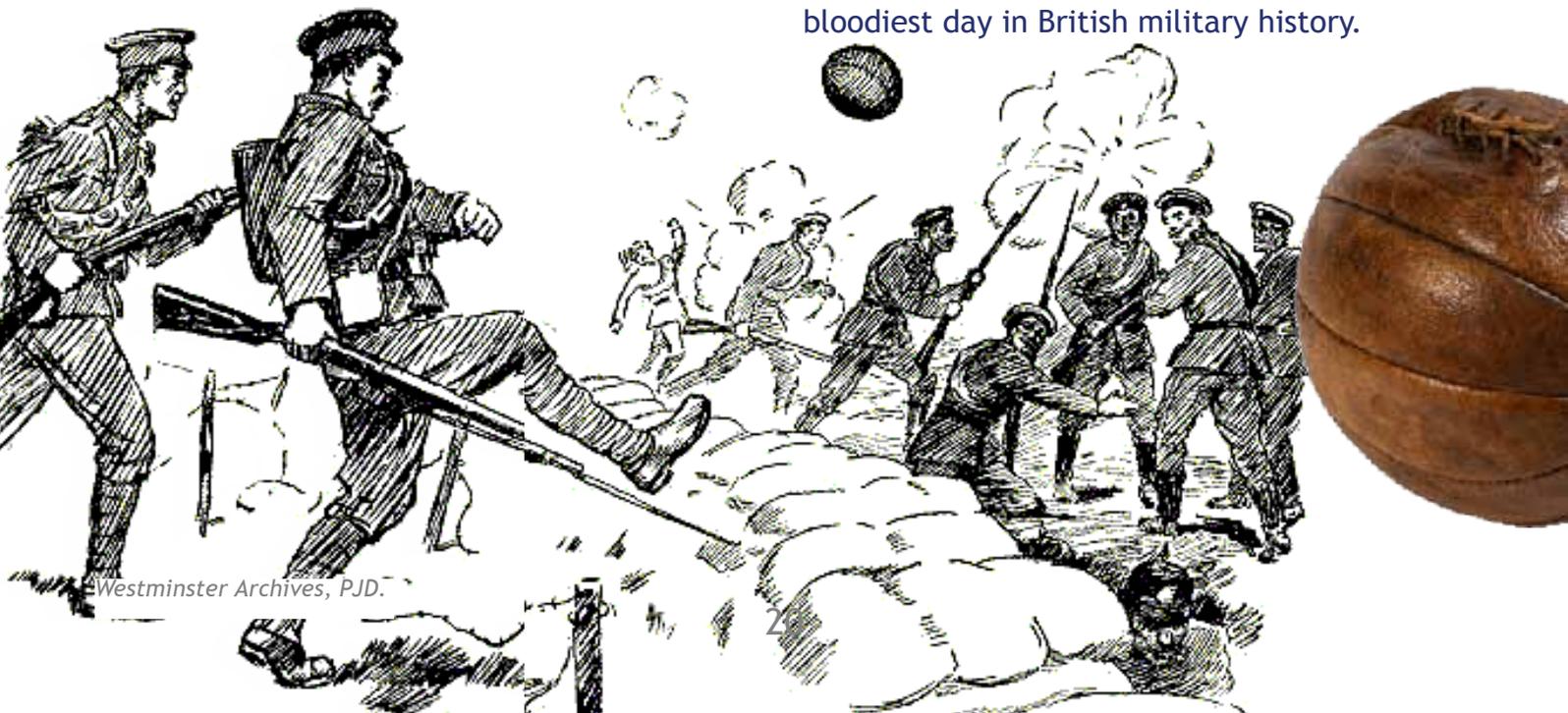
Captain Swainson.  
Westminster Archives, PJD.

Another 21 year old, Captain Billie Neville, was leading an attack by the East Surrey's further south at Albert. Scared his men would not follow him over the top, he'd bought two footballs on leave for them to kick across 'No-Man's Land.' On the first was written: 'The Great European Cup-Tie Final. East Surreys v Bavarians. Kick off Zero hour.' On the other in large letters was, 'NO REFEREE'.

Neville was killed within a few steps of leaving the British trenches. His actions that day made him a legend. Swainson, equally as brave, was quickly forgotten. Nobody found his body and he is only remembered on the Thiepval memorial to the missing on the Somme. Swainson and Neville are just two of the 19,240 who were killed on the 1st, July, 1916. Another 38,000 were wounded to make this the bloodiest day in British military history.



Captain Neville.  
Queen's Royal Surrey Regt  
Museum



Westminster Archives, PJD.

# 1916

## A Miller's Tale

The Whistle blew and the ladder climbed,  
Then the guns barked clackety-clack  
And poor Bert was flung down,  
Like a goalie onto his back.

In 1983, Rifleman Aubrey Rose recalled what happened to the Westminster Rifles on their ill fated attack on Gommecourt at 7.30am on 1st July, 1916: *'We went over the top and eventually arrived in the German trenches. The smoke barrage was so thick you could not see where you were going and we did not know it was a trap.'*

Two years before, the men of the Westminster Rifles had met with German soldiers and swapped souvenirs during the Christmas Truce. Now that same desire for souvenirs was to prove deadly. Rose remembered that in the first German dug out there were German helmets, which the men thought: *'...would do nicely as souvenirs. But as they touched them they were blown up.'* The contrast with the Christmas Truce couldn't be greater.

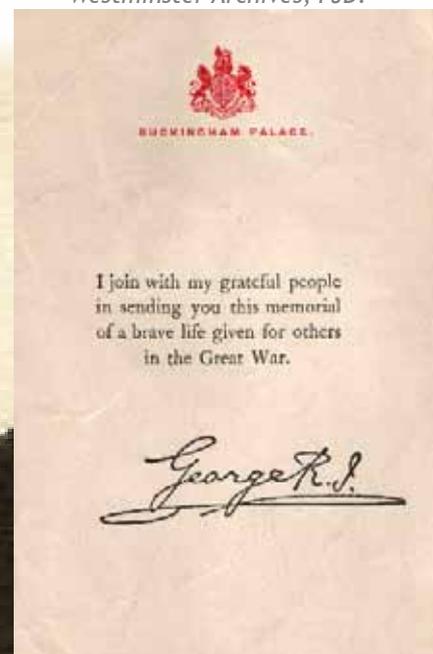
Rifleman Rose's company officer, twenty two year old Captain Hugh Mott was killed by a shell together with his batman-*'blown to pieces'*, Rose recalled. Mott's name is inscribed on the Thiepval memorial, alongside many Westminster's who died that day and who have no known grave. One of them is Rifleman Percy Kentzinsky, although von Kentzinsky was the name he'd been born with. His German father, 'Henry,' had changed his name from Heinrich, when he had taken the position of head waiter at a Richmond restaurant. He could never have known then that his son would be killed, at the age of twenty three fighting for his adopted country against his homeland.



Memorial Plaque and Scroll.  
Westminster Archives, PJD.



Captain Hugh Mott.  
Westminster Archives, PJD.



I join with my grateful people  
in sending you this memorial  
of a brave life given for others  
in the Great War.

*George R. J.*

# 1920

## A Miller's Tale

November 11th 1920,  
'Eine Frau' from Fulham came,  
To place a wreath of flowers  
On a grave that bore no name.

This grave lay in the Abbey  
Amongst names of such great fame,  
But her son's name was altered  
By those who sought to blame.



Punch illustration 11.11.20.  
Westminster Abbey Archives.



The Unknown Warrior, passes  
by the Cenotaph in  
Westminster.  
Westminster Archives, PJD.

*"I'm going to London to the funeral of my boy. Yes they are burying him in Westminster Abbey on Thursday. The papers say they're going to bury an unknown warrior, but I know it is our Jim. I know. If a mother doesn't know then who should? I remember what he said on t' platform when he was going back on leave. I told him he was to mind and be careful, and he laughed and said that if anything happened he was to be given a swell burial in Westminster Abbey, and Betsy, she laughed, too, and cried a bit, and said it would be Westminster Abbey for sure. And so it is. I know."*

Every woman who had lost someone could now believe that their husband or son could be the Unknown Warrior.

On November 11th 1920, the Unknown Warrior was laid to rest in Westminster Abbey; an anonymous, ordinary soldier buried amongst the King's of England. The idea had come from the Reverend David Railton, who had served on the Western Front and agonized over how he could help to bring closure to families grieving over loved ones who often had no known grave. Four unknown soldiers were selected from amongst the major battlefields, from which one was chosen at random to be brought home. The body was brought back to England through the same ports and railway stations that thousands had passed through on their way out to the Front. Thousands of women waited for a glimpse of the coffin as it passed on its way from Dover via Victoria Station to Westminster Abbey.

The significance of what this meant for people at that time is evident in this Evening Standard story of a bereaved mother's journey to the ceremony at Westminster Abbey:



Widows in Westminster Abbey. Westminster Archives, PJD.



Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. Westminster Archives, PJD.

# 1920

## A Miller's Tale

She shed a tear, as she now knew,  
She'd never wave away,  
Her Bert along the Fulham Road  
To see his Chelsea play.

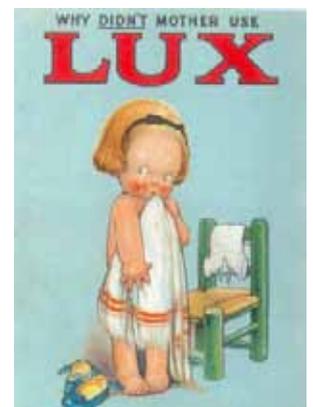
The editor of the Chelsea Chronicle, for the team's first match after the Great War, played tribute to '*absent friends*' who would not be cheering on their team at Stamford Bridge for the match against Sunderland. Amongst the crowd that day, and soon to become a familiar sight, were disabled ex-servicemen in their three wheeler wheel chairs. These men were a visible reminder that war was not a game.



Casualties of war, Chelsea supporters. Hulton Getty.

Between 1st July, 1916, when the Battle of the Somme began, and 19th November, 1916, when it ended around 600,000 soldiers on both sides were wounded. Not all wounds were physical—the mental scars of battle took far longer to heal.

Rifleman Albert H. Cross of the Queen's Westminster Rifles was wounded in September 1916 and treated at the 'Somerley' Convalescent Home in Ringwood Hants. Rifleman Cross must have drawn pictures like the innocent Lux soap girl to escape his horrific memories of the battle but the Somme couldn't be escaped so easily. Albert Cross was sent back to fight and killed on the 25th April 1918 at the 2nd Battle of the Somme. He has no known grave and his name is inscribed on the Pozieres memorial.



Rifleman, Albert H. Cross and his illustrations. Westminster Archives, PJD.



Stamford Bridge, 1920. Hulton Getty.

# 2006

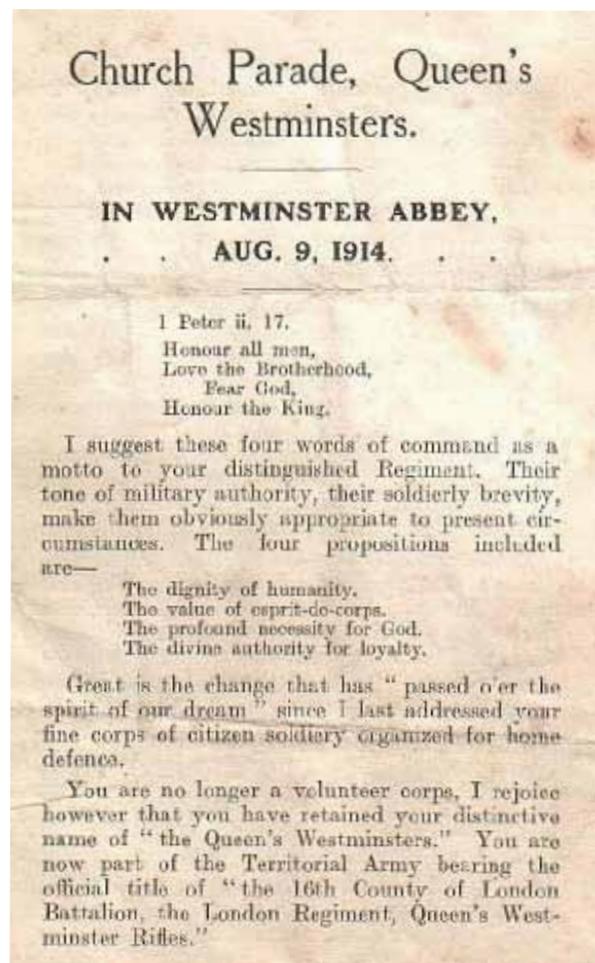
## A Miller's Tale

Alone in Westminster Abbey  
Remain the names of boys now forgotten  
They are part of a list of brave young men  
But this scroll is seldom looked on.

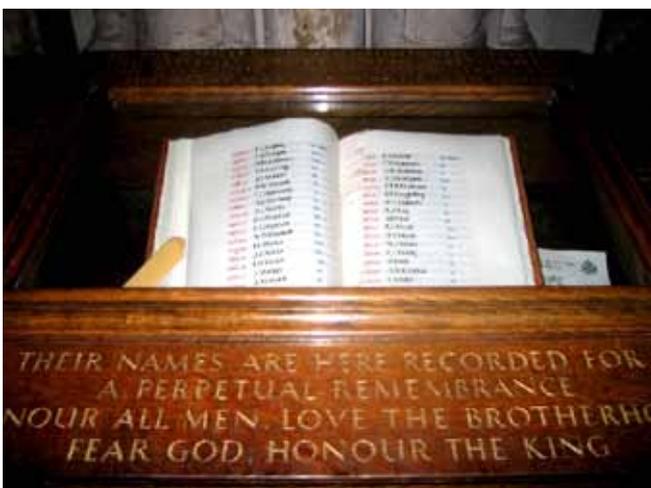
“HONOUR ALL MEN, LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD, FEAR GOD, HONOUR THE KING.”

These words are taken from the sermon that the men of the Queen's Westminster Rifles heard at Westminster Abbey on August 9th, 1914, before they were sent to France. They can now be found inscribed on a wooden casket in the Abbey containing the names of every member of the regiment that fell in the Great War. The names now mean very little to the few that take the time to look at them. It wasn't always like this.

This memorial certainly meant a lot to Charles and Emma Hayden, who would come here to pay their respects to their son, John. He'd been born in 1893 within sight of the Abbey, at 8, Moreton Place, Pimlico. He'd joined the Queen's Westminster Rifles as soon as war was declared and had been at that service in August, 1914. John had had a premonition, before he left, that he would never return to his Pimlico home and left a poem behind for his parents. He was killed on February 13th, 1915, just a few weeks after participating in the Christmas Truce.



Queen's Westminster Rifles service programme. Westminster Abbey Archives.



Queen's Westminster Rifles Memorial book and Casket at Westminster Abbey.



# 2006

## A Miller's Tale

Ten years had gone by since Jason's community service at the Royal Hospital. Looking back it was the moment it had all changed him. Old Joe's poem had sparked off something in him, which made him think about who he was and what he wanted out of life. He didn't see football as some form of tribal warfare any more. His football hooligan days were now well behind him. So far behind him that he'd travelled to the World Cup that summer in Germany.

The Poem had made him see the error of his ways and in the months that followed that wasn't all that he'd discovered. Whilst out in Germany Jason looked up where his Great Uncle Albert's family had come from. Through this search and by finding his German roots Jason was finally able to find himself.



England fans during the World Cup 2006.



German fans during the World Cup 2006.



John Louis Muller.  
*Photograph from Jill Maybury  
(relative of John Louis Muller)*

# ACTIVITY SHEETS

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# Timeline

## World War One - The Great War

1914

- June 28th, Archduke Franz Ferdinand is assassinated by Serbian Nationalist in Sarejevo.
- July 28th, Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia and Russia
- August 1st, Official outbreak of World War I. Germany declares war on Russia.
- August 3rd, Germany declares war on France
- August 4th, Germany declares war and invades neutral Belgium forcing Britain to declare war on Germany
- October 29th, Turkey enters the war on Germany's side
- Defence of the Realm Act interns German citizens in Britain
- December 25th, an unofficial Christmas Truce is declared by soldiers along the Western front

1915

- May 23rd, Italy declares war on Germany and Austria
- Women take up men's Jobs
- Stalemate continues on the Western Front
- The Lusitania passenger liner is sunk, with 1,200 lives lost
- Anti-German riots in Chelsea, Fulham, and Westminster
- London attacked from the air by German Zeppelins

1916

- January 27th, Conscription is introduced for men aged between 18 and 41
- May 3rd, at sea the Battle of Jutland takes place
- July 1st, Battle of the Somme: 57,000 casualties on 1st July (1/3 killed)
- Armed uprisings in Dublin: The Irish Republic is proclaimed
- London attacked from the air by German Zeppelins
- September 15th, first use en masse of tanks at the Battle of Somme
- December 7th, David Lloyd George becomes Prime Minister

1917

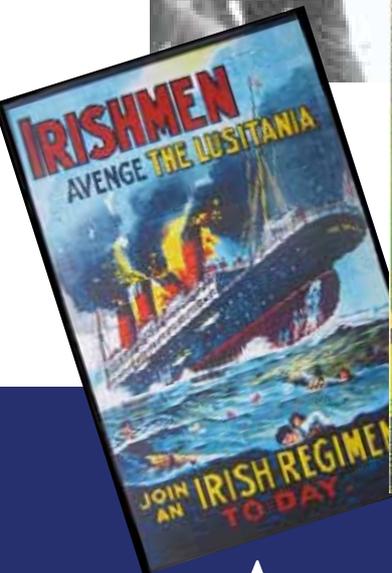
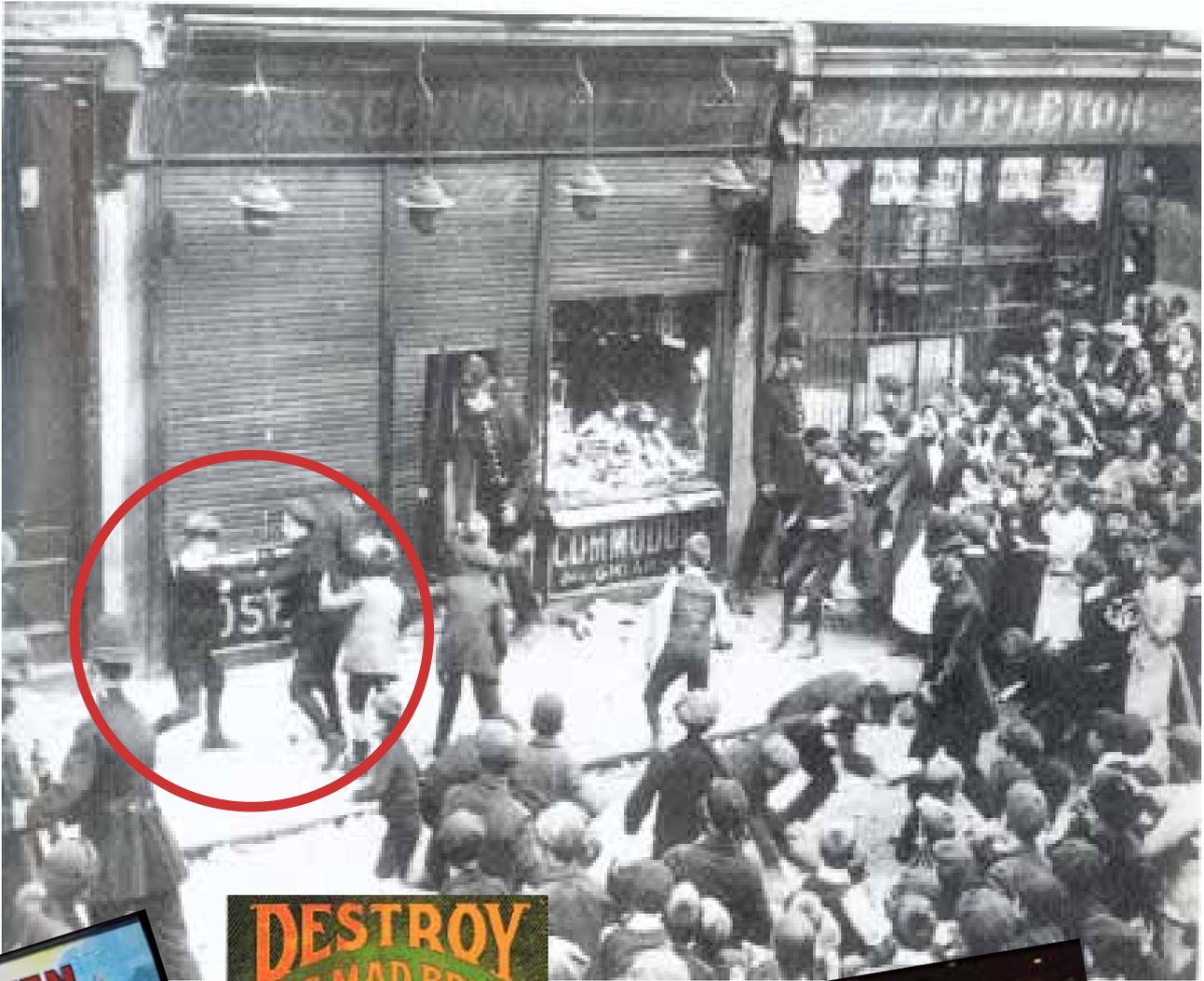
- Walter Rull becomes the first Black British Army Officer, May 1917
- German Army retreats to the Hindenburg Line
- April 6th, United States declares war on Germany
- Tank, submarine and gas warfare intensifies
- Because of strong anti-German feeling the Royal family change their German surname from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor

1918

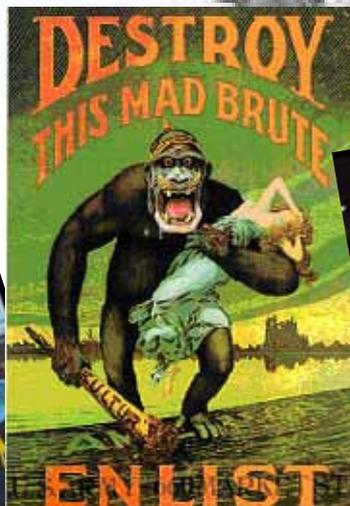
- Germany launches major offensive on the Western Front
- Allies launch successful counter-offensives at the Marne and Amiens
- October 4th, Germany asks the Allies for an armistice
- October 30th, Turkey makes peace
- May 3rd, Austria makes peace
- Armistice is signed on November 11th, officially ending the war at 11am
- In Britain, a coalition government is elected and women over 30 succeed in gaining the vote

# What do we mean by conflict?

## 1. The Lusitania Riots



A



B



C



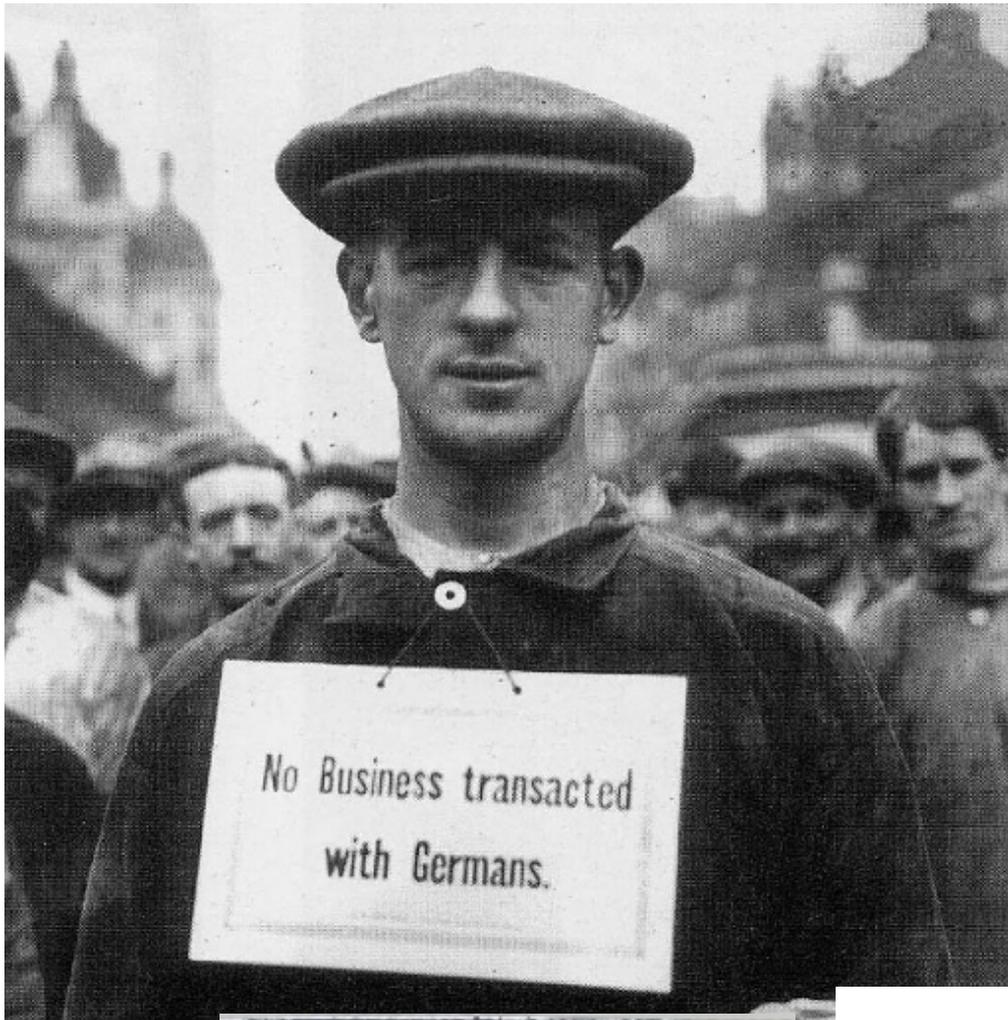
D

Together with a partner imagine you are one of the two characters circled above.

- Why are you fighting? (refer to source A+B)
- What happened to you before the picture was taken?
- Are there any similarities to what happened in this picture from 1915 and what happened in Trafalgar Square during EURO '96 (source C & D)? Explain your answer.

# What do we mean by conflict?

## 1. The Lusitania Riots



**MEN AND WOMEN  
OF FULHAM.**

**T**HIS IS TO CERTIFY, and  
can be PROVED, that we  
are ALL ENGLISH here. Also  
that we have no connection  
with German or Alien Firms.

CHARLES WILLIAM  
**BERRYMAN,**  
659 Fulham Rd.

**£50 REWARD.**

**W**HEREAS it has come to my knowledge that  
some person or persons has circulated or  
caused to be circulated a statement that the under-  
signed ERNEST W. WOLFF is a German subject,  
this statement is utterly false. I hereby offer a  
reward of £50 for sufficient information to enable  
me to prosecute any such person or persons who  
had or have so maliciously slandered me.

**ERNEST W. WOLFF,**  
DENTAL SURGERY,  
6 The Broadway,  
Hammersmith.



E

F

G

- What role do you think the media had in encouraging victimization of individuals?
- Use the sheet apposite to describe how an article in the press could lead to someone being victimised in your school and what the consequences would be.

Media pressure

1915

**ANTI-GERMAN RIOTS.**  
 Organised Raids on Alien Bakers and Butcherers.  
 Windows Bombarded with Bricks and Stones.  
 Special Constables Called Out.

"I call for a Vendetta—a Vendetta against every German in Britain, whether national or alien... You cannot call this an occasional riot—it is a human storm, a boiling break... Best you all remember to follow the lead and before us have the Germans stamped—stamped beyond forgiveness... They have wronged every law of God and man, they have wronged every law of the Lord! Let it be soon and since also. Fight to-day the Vendetta! Let every German beware!" —John Bull

1996

**ACHTUNG!  
SURRENDER**

At your school

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Victimisation



At your school

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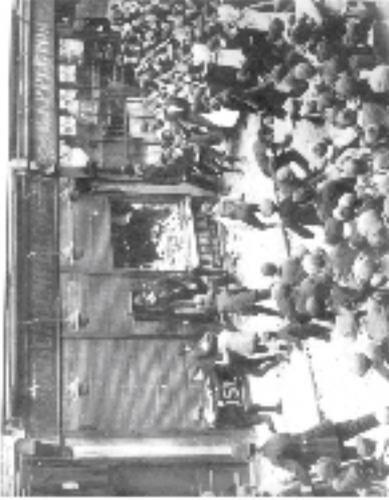
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Consequences



At your school

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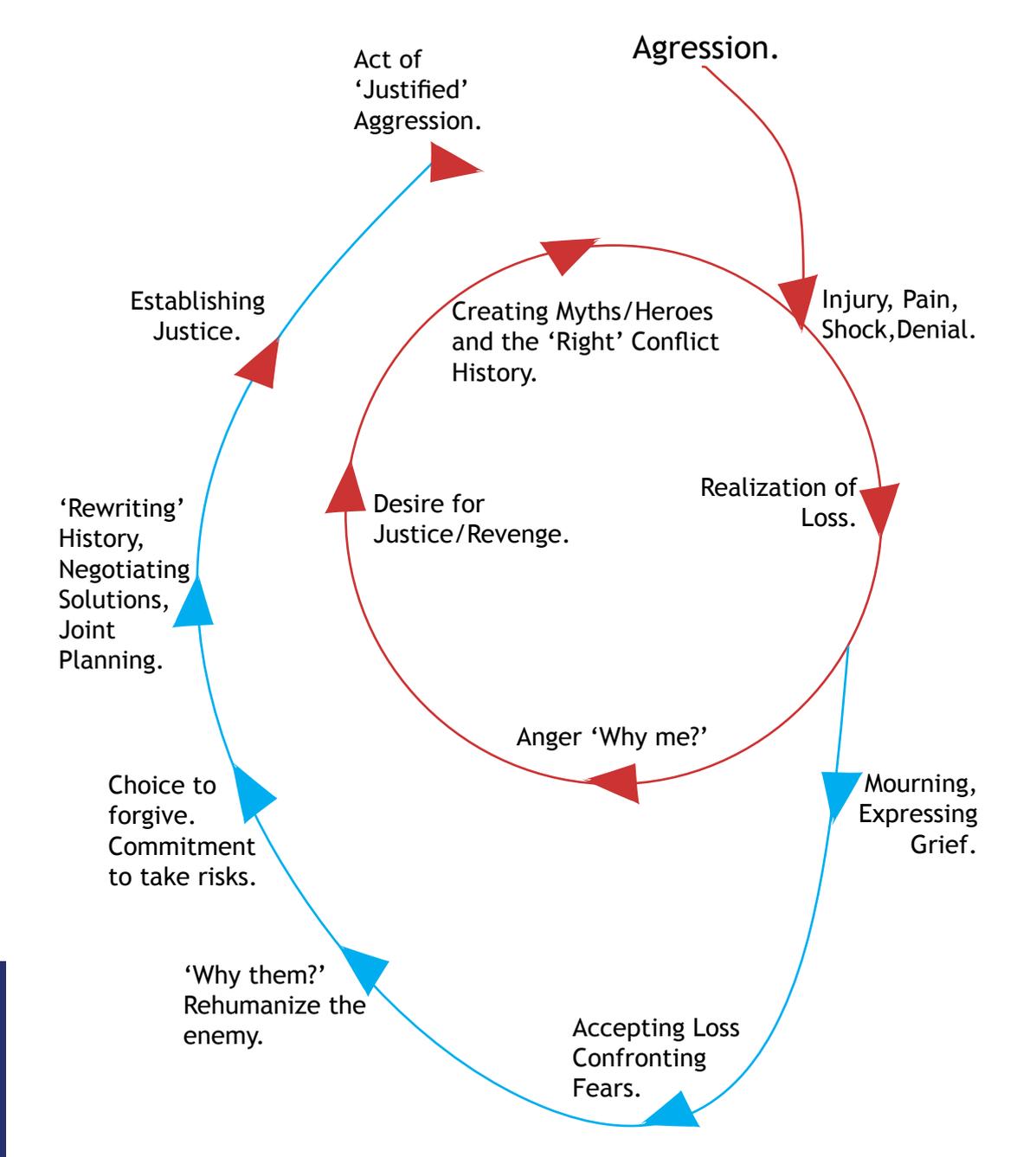
What do we mean by conflict?

# What part does forgiveness play in resolving conflict?

## 2. The Circle of Violence

The circle of violence trap is represented in the diagram below.

Following the first reported atrocities by the Germans in Belgium in 1914 the nations aligned to both the Central Powers and the Allies found themselves repeatedly going around the inner circle. They ended in a game of *tit for tat*, where it soon became unclear and irrelevant who started the violence and why.



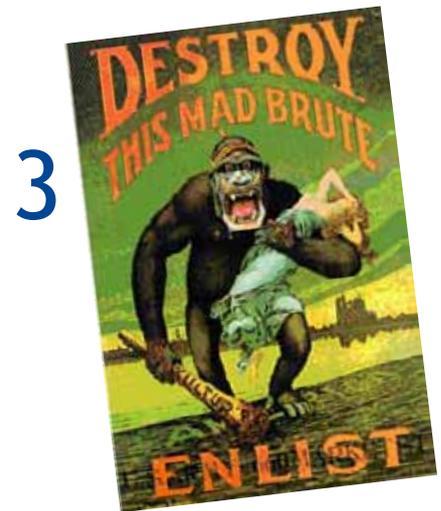
To end the violence the circle needs to be broken, this can be done by beginning a process of grieving, this can be achieved when groups and individuals acknowledge and take responsibility for the crimes they have committed and being willing to forgive.

- Can you think of any situations from your own experience that follow the steps shown in the circle of violence?

# What part does forgiveness play in resolving conflict?

## 2. The Circle of Violence

During a war, the relationship between conflicting sides is characterized by a lack of dialogue, polarized positions, blaming the enemy, attempts to justify one's own crimes, and a dehumanisation of the enemy in the form of derogatory stereotypes. At this point the enemy is not an individual. He is one of a mass of people who are usually depicted as both threatening and inferior.



- Match these images numbered 1-5 to their correct label as part of *the circle of violence*.
- Why do you think the Christmas Truce of 1914 was unable to break *the cycle of violence*? Explain your answer.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

# What role does the media play in the cycle of violence?

## 3a). Fulham Chronicle

Newspaper articles are a mix of fact and opinion. The articles below all appeared in the Fulham Chronicle after the riots in London that followed the sinking of the Lusitania in 1915. The articles highlight the anti German feeling that British people felt. Many of the Germans living in London were in fact British, but had German parents or grandparents, many couldn't even speak German.

Read the following three articles and then answer the questions below.

### Article 1

'Fulham people along with their fellow-citizens all over the country consider that they have received the worst possible provocation from the wild beasts in human form who we call Germans.'

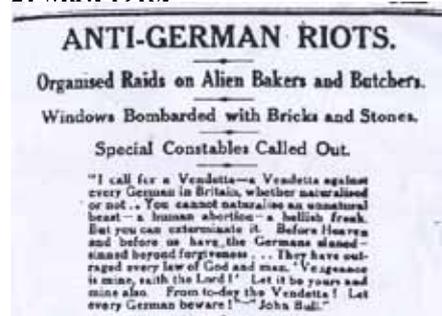
Fulham Chronicle, 21 May, 1915



### Article 2

'I call for a Vendetta—a Vendetta against every German in Britain, whether naturalised or not... You cannot naturalise an unnatural beast — a human abortion — a hellish freak. Before Heaven and before us have the Germans sinned — sinned beyond forgiveness... They have outraged every law of God and man. "Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord!" Let it be yours and mine also. From to-day the Vendetta! Let every German beware!'

John Bull quoted in Fulham Chronicle 21 May, 1915.



### Article 3

'Then came Mr. Steil's more serious trial. Some youngsters, taking advantage of the absence of the police, crept back bent on destruction. Mr. Steil, Jnr, remonstrated with them, but nevertheless several stones were thrown, breaking a door panel and the fanlight. The falling glass from the latter cut Mr. Steil on the face. It was left to the Rev. H.B. Thompson of Christchurch, Studdridge Street to protect the premises. He has been a witness of other rioting, and now, standing on the doorstep with arms extended, he cried, to the demonstrators who had arrived, "If you throw, you hit me." This was too much for the crowd and Mr. Steil's shop was saved.'

Fulham Chronicle, 21 May, 1915



- How do you think that people would have been influenced by these articles?
- Which one of the articles takes a factual look at what happened?
- What phrases are used to dehumanize Germans?

# What role does the media play in the cycle of violence?

## 3a). Fulham Chronicle

Read the story of footballer Max Seeburg to find out how the demonisation of Germans in the media affected his life.

### The Story of Max Seeburg

Max Paul Seeburg was born in Leipzig, Germany, on 19 September 1884 but at the tender age of two he moved to London with his family, where his father set up a fur shop near Tower Bridge.

Max grew up in the Tottenham area where football quickly became his passion. Starting his career at Chelsea, he never appeared for the first team and was transferred to his local club Spurs for £30 in May 1907. Here, Max became the first German born player to play in the Football League, when he played for Spurs in a 1-0 defeat away to Hull City in September 1908. He went on to play for Burnley, Grimsby and Reading between 1907 and 1914.

By the time Max joined Reading for the 1912-1913 season, he was a respected professional. The fans at Reading quickly took to him and he became the club captain before eventually settling in the town to become the landlord of the Marquis of Lorne pub in the centre of Reading.

Everything changed at the outbreak of war in August 1914. Despite his English upbringing, and his popularity as both a footballer and landlord, Max Seeburg's German surname condemned him to being arrested and interned. Max even had his pub taken away from him.

What made Seeburg's treatment even less easy to understand was that his brother Frank was serving in the Middlesex Regiment as a soldier at the time.

Despite his treatment Max remained in England after the war and made a living as a carpenter. He never spoke about what happened to him, even to his closest family.

He suffered in silence until his death in 1972.



### OUR PORTRAIT GALLERY THE READING TEAM



Included in the list were many professional men and well-known tradesmen. Max Seeburg, the well-known late Reading Football Club player, and more recently licensee of the "Marquis of Lorne" public-house in Friar-street, was amongst those arrested. Some of the aliens were arrested whilst

# What role does the media play in the circle of violence?

## 3a) Fulham Chronicle

Read the accounts by men of the Queen's Westminster Rifles that contradict the negative stereotypes of German's found in the media during World War One.

'You will be very much surprised to hear I had one of the best Christmas Days I have had for years. On Christmas Eve I went to the trenches and the Germans were singing carols to our men and we were singing to them. They then shouted to us 'A Merry Christmas, British comrades. You English are fine singers. After that some of our men went out and met some of the Germans halfway. One of our chaps gave a German a Christmas pudding and the Germans in return gave him a bottle of wine and some cigars. Then they arranged that there should be no shooting on either side till after midnight on Christmas Day they kept to their promise. I must say the Germans were very sporty and wanted to arrange a football match with us for the Christmas afternoon...'

**Rifleman E.E. Meadley of the Queens Westminster Rifles**

'Timidly they approached each other - unarmed, of course - until finally a German and an Englishmen met and shook hands to the sound of a happy little burst of cheering. Within a few seconds hundreds of people were shaking hands, laughing, exchanging drinks of rum and cognac, cigars and cigarettes, chocolate, sausages and so on.'



**Rifleman M.L. Walkinton of the Queen's Westminster Rifles**



You will no doubt be surprised to hear that we spent our Christmas in the trenches after all and that Christmas Day was a very happy one. On Christmas Eve the Germans entrenched opposite us began calling out to us 'Cigarettes', 'Pudding', 'A Happy Christmas' and 'English - means good', so two of our fellows climbed over the parapet of the trench and went towards the German trenches. Half-way they were met by four Germans, who said they would not shoot on Christmas Day if we did not. They gave our fellows cigars and a bottle of wine and were given a cake and cigarettes. When they came back I went out with some more of our fellows and we were met by about 30 Germans, who seemed to be very nice fellows. I got one of them to write his name and address on a postcard as a souvenir. All through the night we sang carols to them and they sang to us and one played 'God Save the King' on a mouth organ. On Christmas Day we all got out of the trenches and walked about with the Germans, who, when asked if they were fed up with the war said 'Yes, rather'.

**Rifleman C H Brazier of the Queen's Westminster Rifles**



# What role does the media play in the circle of violence?

## 3a) Fulham Chronicle

Having read the soldiers' accounts of what happened on Christmas Day in 1914 it is obvious that not all Germans were bad people. Can you write a newspaper article that explains this to the people of Britain?

### EVENING STANDARD

**CHOOSE A HEADLINE:** Decide on a few words or a short sentence that will tell your reader what your article is about. For example, *German Soldier's Christmas Kindness*.

**INTRODUCE YOUR TOPIC:** Begin your article explaining what your purpose is in writing about the treatment of German people. Remember that most Britons at this time feel that Germans are bad people. You might want to begin by pointing out that it is unfair to label all Germans this way.

**SUPPORT YOUR STATEMENT:** What evidence do you have that shows that it is unfair to treat all Germans as enemies? Use the example of the footballer Max Seeburg and his arrest.

**GIVE FURTHER SUPPORT:** Write about the Christmas Truce of 1914 and the kindness that the German soldiers showed the British that day?

**CONCLUDE YOUR ARTICLE:** Finish your article by giving your opinion on why it is unfair to say that all Germans are bad people. Think about why is it important not to label an entire group of people.

# What role does the media play in the cycle of violence?

## 3b). Chelsea FC Chronicle Christmas Truce article

Here are some real life accounts of soldiers who experienced the Christmas Truce. Their accounts contradict the negative stereotypes found in the media during that time.

### **Sgt. Bernard Brookes - Queen's Westminster Rifles**

In the afternoon I went out and had a chat with "our friends the enemy". Many of the Germans had costumes which had been taken from the houses nearby and one of the facetious fellows had a blouse, skirt, top hat and umbrella, which grotesque figure caused much merriment. Various souvenirs were exchanged which I managed to send home.



### **Rifleman C H Brazier - Queen's Westminster Rifles**

A hundred yards or so in the rear of our trenches there were houses that had been shelled. These were explored with some of the regulars and we found old bicycles, top-hats, straw hats, umbrellas etc. We dressed ourselves up in these and went over to the Germans. It seemed so comical to see fellows walking about in top-hats and with umbrellas up. Some rode the bicycles backwards. We had some fine sport and made the Germans laugh.

### **Rifleman William Eve - Queen's Westminster Rifles**

It is simply wonderful that here, in the midst of war, this glorious day should have such a hold as to make peace between us for a day: tomorrow we shall be going for each other again. Our chaps actually have been playing football in front, and the officers were allowed to go and converse, providing they were dressed as privates.

### **Rifleman Earnest Morley - Queen's Westminster Rifles**

They stuck up a light, not to be outdone so did we. Then up went another so we shoved up another soon the two lines looked like an illuminated fete. Opposite me they had one lamp and 9 candles in a row. And we had all the candles and lights we could muster stuck in our swords about the parapet.

### **Rifleman A E Watts - Queen's Westminster Rifles**

You ought to have seen our table when it was laid out on Christmas Day. There are four of us in our dugout, and we each had a tinned ration of meat and vegetables, which was followed by a Christmas pudding, mince pies, almonds and raisins, and red and white wine. What a feed! And a glorious wood fire going all day. Cigarettes, tobacco, with cigars from the Germans galore. What strange warfare!

### **Leutnant Neumann**

Later a Scottish soldier appeared with a football which seemed to come from nowhere and a few minutes later a real football match got underway. The Scots marked their goal mouth with their strange caps and we did the same with ours. It was far from easy to play on frozen ground, but we continued, keeping rigorously to the rules, despite the fact that it only lasted an hour and that we had no referee. A great many of the passes went wide, but all the amateur footballers, although they must have been very tired, played with huge enthusiasm. The game finished with a score of three goals to two in favour of Fritz against Tommy.

### **Rifleman Leslie Walkinton - Queen's Westminster Rifles**

I talked to a German-American who seemed a very pleasant sort of lad. He had never been to England. We tried talking war, but I found him full of newspaper propaganda. He thought that the Germans had made a successful landing in England. I laughed. I told him that we expected to beat Germany by Easter and he roared.

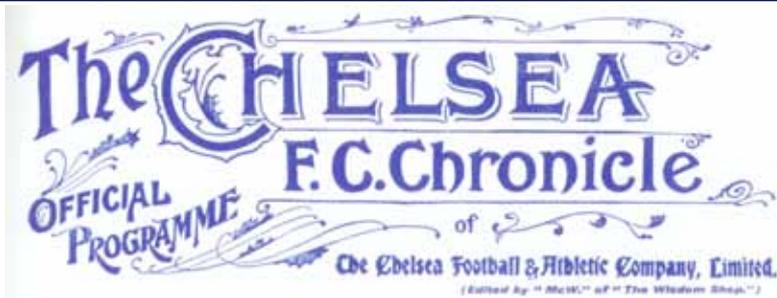
# What role does the media play in the cycle of violence?

## 3b). Chelsea FC Chronicle Christmas Truce article

Read the extracts from the soldiers accounts of Christmas 1914.

- Thank Chelsea F.C. for the footballs sent out to the front.
- Make a list of all the different events that took place that show the Germans in a positive light.
- Include these in a report to be sent back to the Chelsea Chronicle, describing the football match played in No Man's Land on Christmas Day, 1914.
- Why do you think that stories like these were censored and kept away from the public later in the war?

Positive stories like the one you are going to write appeared in many newspapers in England shortly after the Christmas Truce.



A large rectangular area with horizontal dashed lines, intended for writing a report or answer.

# Are forgiveness and conflict resolution possible?

## 4a). Who's for the Game?

Jessie Pope was a journalist who composed crude war verses for the Daily Mail. She represented the typical unfeeling civilian who was supporting the First World War from the safety of the Home Front. She was particularly detested by the great soldier poet Wilfred Owen.

Who's For the Game?

Who's for the game the biggest that's played,  
The red crashing game of a fight?  
Who'll grip and tackle the job unafraid?  
An who thinks he'd rather sit tight?

Who'll toe the line for the signal to 'Go!'  
Who'll give his country a hand?  
Who wants to turn to himself in the show?  
And who wants a seat in the stand?

Who knows it won't be a picnic-not much-  
Yet eagerly shoulder a gun?  
Who would much rather come back with a crutch  
Than lie low and be out of the fun?

Come along lads—But you'll come on all right—  
For there's only one course to pursue,  
You country is up to her neck in a fight,  
And she's looking and calling for you

**Jessie Pope**



Imperial War Museum.



Punch. Westminster Archives.

**This poem is about Captain Neville's use of footballs on the 1st July 1916.**

On through the heat of slaughter  
Where gallant comrades fall  
Where blood is poured like water  
They drive the trickling ball  
The fear of death before them  
Is but an empty name  
True to the land that bore them  
The Surreys play the game

**William Manchester**

How many comparisons can you see between the war and football in Jessie Pope's poem?

Why do you think that William Manchester's poem was so widely reproduced in the press in 1916?

Who do you think William Manchester's poem was aimed at?

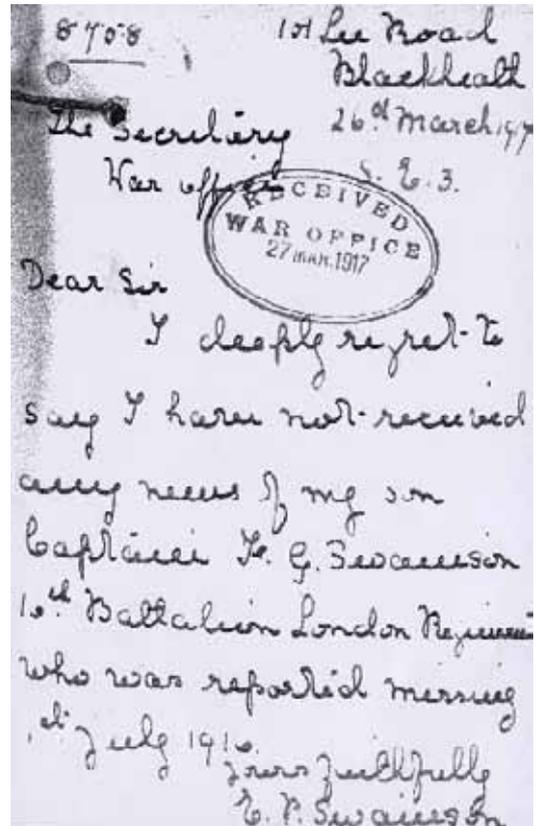
# Are forgiveness and conflict resolution possible?

## 4a). Who's for the Game?

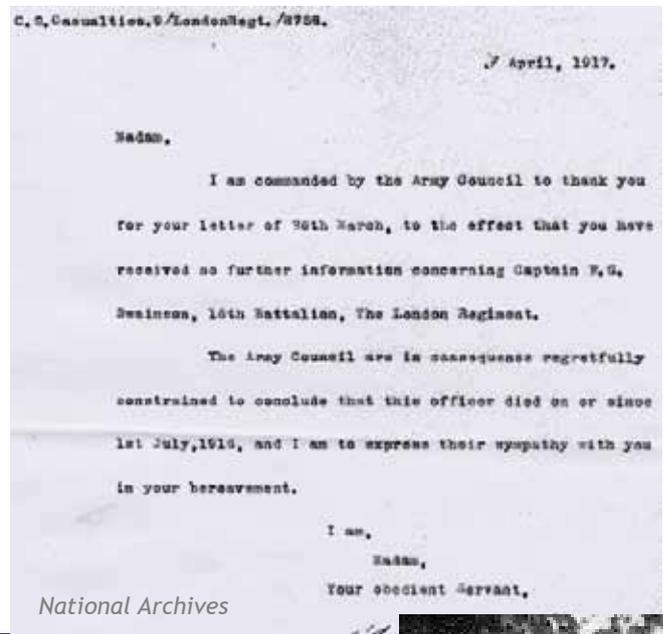
The 1st July 1916 was the first day of the Battle of the Somme, and the most disastrous day in the history of the British army. By the evening of this beautiful summer's day, 19,000 were dead and another 38,000 wounded.

At 7.30a.m. that day, The Queen's Westminster Rifles stepped into No Man's Land at Gommecourt to face the massed machine guns and artillery of the German defenders. Of the 750 officers and men who went over the top that day, 600 were killed wounded or missing.

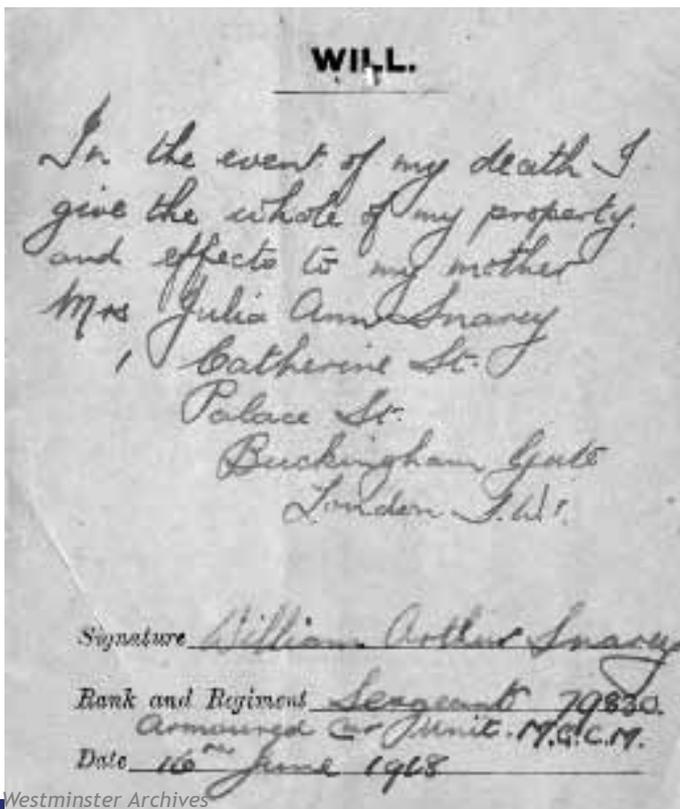
One of those to fall that day was 21 year old Captain Francis Gibbon Swainson M.C.. His family were wealthy Preston mill owners and he'd been one of the original battalion officers that went out to France in 1914. He'd missed the Christmas truce through frost bite, but had won the Military Cross in 1915 and been promoted to Captain before his 21st birthday. On the 1st July he bravely led 'A' company in the attack but was killed shortly after leaving the second line trench.



National Archives



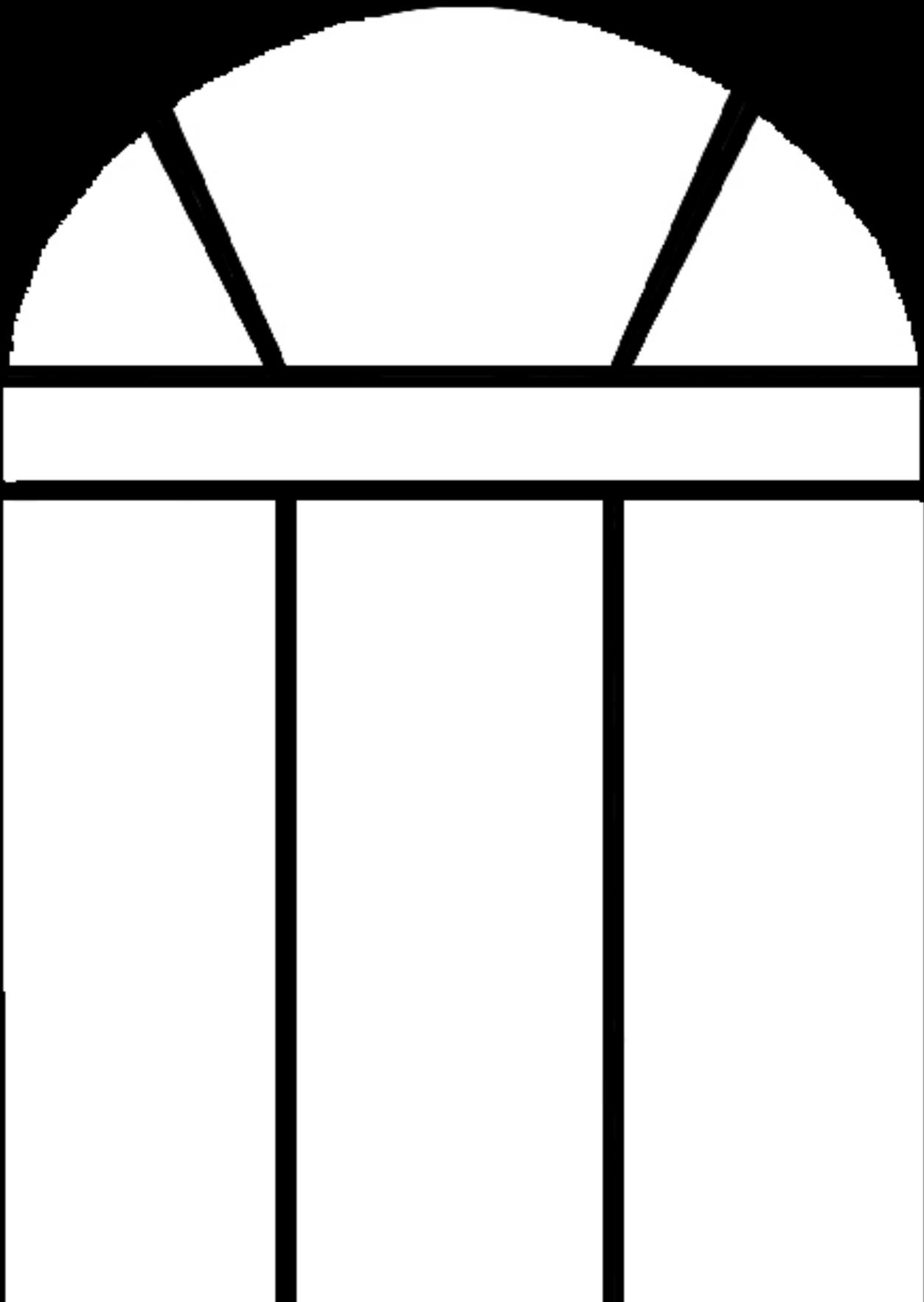
National Archives



Westminster Archives

Shortly after the 1st July, 1916, the first day of the Battle of Somme, Francis Gibbon Swainson's mother received news that he was missing. She spent the next few months writing letters to the War Office asking for news of her son. Nearly a year later they wrote to say that he was in all probability dead. All that she had left of son was the few personal effects sent home to her. Nobody found his body and he is only remembered now as one of 74,000 names on the Thiepval memorial to the missing on the Somme. For Mrs Swainson, war was anything but a game.





### DESIGN A STAINED GLASS WINDOW

Use this template to design a stained glass window. Choose a theme from the following to base your design around.

- 1) Design a window for John Hayden and Georg Maier that celebrates the Christmas Truce of 1914. Use symbols from Hayden's poem (pg 42).
- 2) Design a Mother's stained glass window using ideas from Kathe Kollwitz artwork (pg 41), in memory of Captain Francis Gibbon Swainson.

# Are forgiveness and conflict resolution possible?

## 4b) A Mother's Grief?

**K**athe Kollwitz was a German artist whose son, Peter, was killed in battle in October 1914. His death fueled Kollwitz's anti-war sentiments, and her work became increasingly strong in its pacifist stance. She campaigned against patriotic poets in Germany, who like Pope and Manchester, called for all able-bodied men and boys to die for the Fatherland. She quoted Goethe's words, "*seed corn must not be ground,*" implying that the nation's future depended on its youth, which must not be squandered in a war.

Over the next few years Kollwitz produced a series of drawings illustrating the impact that war had on women. This included *Widows and Orphans* (1919), *Killed in Action* (1921) and *the Survivors* (1923).

After the war Kollwitz designed a sculpture *The Grieving Parents*, which was placed in the Belgian cemetery of Roggevelde in 1932. Later, when Peter's grave was moved to the nearby Vladslo German war cemetery, the statues were also moved.



Kathe Kollwitz



*The Grieving Parents*



### IDEAS FOR YOUR STAINED GLASS WINDOW

*Many grieving relatives, like Kollwitz, left memorials to their loved ones in local churches, town centres etc...*

- Design a memorial window for your chosen soldier to be placed at Westminster Abbey. Your window should reflect the loss to families and the need for reconciliation and forgiveness. Use the artwork of Kollwitz to inspire your design.

CHECK OUT these two Kathe Kollwitz websites for inspiring ideas

[www.dhm.de/museen/kollwitz/english/works.htm](http://www.dhm.de/museen/kollwitz/english/works.htm) and [www.kollwitz.de](http://www.kollwitz.de)

# Reconciliation

## 5. A Christmas Truce Window for the Abbey



Springtime is a time of rebirth and renewal.

When I am dead, no graven stone  
Raise o'er my head, but there alone  
Beneath the may – tree let me rest;  
There in the Spring, when winds blow light  
And thrushes sing, the daisy white  
Will timidly display its crest.

What do you think John meant when he wrote, "I'll have no need for human tears." Think about the people he left behind.?

Doves symbolise peace. Why do you think John writes the "The gentle dove may sigh for me"

If there above, upon the tree,  
The gentle dove may sigh for me,  
I'll have no need of human tears;  
And as the bee may – dew sucks deep  
His melody will charm my sleep  
With lullabies no mortal hears.

The trenches were very loud and constant shelling happened day and night. It is in contrast with John wish for lullabies.

Is John typical of how you'd expect a soldier to be? What makes him different?

Then, when in play the children meet,  
There let them stay – so may their feet  
Hallow with footfalls soft my bed;  
Perchance the sound of voices clear  
Will pierce the ground to touch my ear  
And bring me peace, when I am dead.

Children symbolise innocence and joy.

J.H., 1914

You could draw me in my British uniform for your stained glass window design.

### IDEAS FOR YOUR STAINED GLASS WINDOW.

Hayden uses many symbols in his poem. Use these symbols in your stained glass window design for either the Christmas truce window or window in memory of your chosen soldier.

John Hayden was born in 1893 close to Westminster Abbey and grew up living at 8, Moreton Place, Pimlico. When war broke out in August 1914, he was already a part time soldier with the Queen's Westminster Rifles and went with them to France in November that year. John participated in the famous Christmas Truce and shortly after this had a premonition that he would die. He wrote this short poem and sent it back to his family in Pimlico. They had it published in the Post Office staff magazine when news of his death broke. John Hayden is remembered in the Westminster Rifles memorial scroll which is kept in a wooden casket just a few yards away from the tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey.

# Reconciliation

## 5. A Christmas Truce Window for the Abbey

Wenn ich tot bin, errichte keinen  
Grabstein über meinem Kopf, Sondern  
Lass' mich alleine unter dem Maibaum ruhen.  
Im Frühling, wenn der Wind leise weht  
Und die Drosseln singen, breitet das  
Ganseblumchen schon Seinen Kranz aus.

Wenn dort, auf dem Baum die Sanfte Taube  
Für mich seufzt, bringe ich keine Menschen-  
Tränen, Und wenn die Biene Mai Tau trinkt  
bezambert ihre Melodie meinen Schlaf  
Mit Wiegenhidern, die kein Menschenohr hören kann-

Dann, wenn die Kinder sich beim Spielen dort  
Treffen, Lass sie sich dort verbleiben, so doss  
Ihre Fuss schnitte sauft mein Bett heiligen  
Vielleicht dringen ihre klaren simmen durch  
den Boden und beruchren mein Ohr und bringen  
Mir Frieden, wenn ich tot bin.

J.H., 1914

### IDEAS FOR YOUR STAINED GLASS WINDOW.

Why not use a line from John Hayden's poem, in either German or English, and add it to the oblong box in your stained glass window.

Or you could draw me in my German uniform for your stained glass window design.



Ehre dem  
An-  
denken  
des ehreng-  
achtetsten  
Jüngling

**Georg Meier,**  
Gütlersohn von Eggling,  
Soldat beim 151. Infanterie-Regt.,  
3. Kompagnie,  
welcher am 13. Februar 1915 in  
einem Gefecht in den Masuren in  
Ostpreußen im Alter von 21 Jahren  
den Heldentod für's Vaterland starb.

Milde Herr Jesus, gib ihm die ewige  
Ruhe! Ablass: 300 Tage, jedesmal  
nur den armen Seelen zuwendbar.  
Pius X. 18. März 1909.

J. h. b. M. Bruckmeier, Safferstetten.

Georg Maier was a German soldier who died on the same day as John Hayden, February 13th 1915. He was only 21, a year younger than his English counterpart when he died.

They lived long enough to see that the war would not be over by Christmas as men on both sides had been promised. However having witnessed the day to day carnage of the trenches as testimony to the evil of mankind they had lived through one Christmas that offered hope for the future. Both were young men cut off in their prime before they had had a chance to live and love and have families of their own. It almost seems apt that they died just a day before Valentine's Day.





John Louis Muller.  
*Photograph from Jill Maybury  
(relative of John Louis Muller)*

# CURRICULUM LINKS

## CURRICULUM LINKS

- 49            About this unit &  
Where the unit fit in
- 50            1. What do we mean by conflict?  
The Lusitania Riots
2. What part does forgiveness play in  
resolving conflict?  
The Circle of Violence
- 51            3. What role does the media play in the  
cycle of violence?
- a) The Fulham Chronicle  
              b) Chelsea FC Chronicle
- 52            4. Are forgiveness and resolution  
possible?
- a) Whose for the Game?  
              b) A Mother's Grief
5. Reconciliation  
A Christmas Truce Window for the Abbey
- 53            Research Option  
Bosnia/Kosovo



## Unit 13 How do we deal with conflict?

# A Miller's Tale

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### About the unit

Schools need to decide which opportunities to develop as explicit citizenship provision. This unit explores conflict and ways of resolving it and is designed to be delivered through citizenship and history.

This unit will compliment the KS3 History Unit: Unit 18. Hot war, cold war why did the major twentieth-century conflicts affect so many people? It makes use of material related to the Queen's Westminster Rifles from Westminster Archives and archive images and stories from Hammersmith and Fulham Archives. Use is also made of material from Westminster Abbey and the National Army Museum. This material helps children to see how the Great War impacted on people who lived in Central London.

It uses the 'A Miller's Tale Story' about the impact of World War One on London's German community to help children to consider what conflict is and how it arises; Opportunities arise to consider how different religions teach about forgiveness; and the importance of these teachings in resolving conflict. It examines forgiveness through looking at both the story of the Christmas Truce of 1914 and also how those bereaved in the conflict found closure following the loss of their loved ones.

The unit not only examines conflict in the local community between 1914 and 1918 but also how this was reflected in the global conflict that the Great War became. It evaluates the need for understanding, respect and compromise and reflects on contemporary issues.

An option to allow students to explore either the Balkan conflict of the 1990s or the riots that occurred after Euro 96 is outlined in the notes here rather than explicitly laid out as one of the activities.

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### Where the unit fits in

This unit addresses the following aspects of the key stage 3 citizenship programme of study:

#### **Knowledge and understanding about becoming informed citizens**

Pupils should be taught about:

- 1g The importance of resolving conflict fairly
- 1i The world as a global community, and the political, economic, environmental and social implications of this

#### **Developing skills of enquiry and communication**

Pupils should be taught to:

- 2a Think about topical political, spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues, problems and events by analysing information and its sources, including ICT-based sources
- 2b Justify orally and in writing a personal opinion about such issues, problems or events
- 2c Contribute to group and exploratory class discussions, and take part in debates

#### **Developing skills of participation and responsible action**

Pupils should be taught to:

- 3a Use their imagination to consider other people's experiences and be able to think about, express and explain views that are not their own.

This unit links with unit 10 'Debating a global issue', unit 11 'Why is it so difficult to keep the peace in the world today?', unit 7 'Local democracy' and unit 8 'Leisure and sport'

This unit also links with many aspects of RE in local agreed syllabuses and with the following units in the RE scheme of work at key stage 3: unit 7B 'What does justice mean to Christians?', unit 8C 'Belief and practice (generic)', unit 9C 'Why do we suffer?', unit 9D 'Why are some places special to religious believers?'.

Activities	Citizenship Unit 13 How do we deal with conflict	
	Learning Objectives	Learning Outcomes
<p><b>What do we mean by conflict?</b></p> <p><b>1. The Lusitania Riots</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask the pupils, working in pairs or groups, to study the picture of German shops being smashed by rioters in 1915 and the picture of the man with the ‘No business transacted with Germans sign hanging around his neck.</li> <li>• What kind of conflict is happening in the pictures? What are the people doing? What could have happened before the picture was taken? And after? How does the situation affect those in the picture? Might it affect others who are not in the picture? Children consider the story of The Steil Bakery in Wandsworth Bridge Road.</li> <li>• Ask pupils to compare the anti German riots of 1915 with those that occurred in Trafalgar Square following England’s elimination by Germany in the Euro 96 football tournament. How were they similar? How were they different?</li> <li>• Build a class list of types of conflicts and ask the pupils to discuss common features. Ask pupils to work in pairs to produce a definition of conflict.</li> </ul>	<p>1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to define conflict and learn about the different types of conflict</li> <li>• to examine different perspectives on conflict and consider why conflicts arise</li> <li>• how conflict affects individuals and communities</li> <li>• to assemble ideas in an appropriate planning format (NSE)</li> </ul>	<p>1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• define conflict</li> <li>• identify different kinds of conflict and why they arise</li> <li>• understand how conflict begins and how it affects individuals and communities</li> </ul>
<p><b>What part does forgiveness play in resolving conflict?</b></p> <p><b>2. The Cycle of Violence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider how the events linked to the sinking of the Lusitania contributed towards the circle of violence that existed in World War One.</li> <li>• Ask children to link images numbered 1-5 with captions A-E</li> <li>• How could the circle of violence have been broken in WW1?</li> <li>• Discuss how the Christmas truce broke the cycle of violence in WW1 but also why this did not lead to a permanent truce</li> </ul>	<p>2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to examine different different perspectives on conflict and consider why conflicts arise</li> </ul>	<p>2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand how conflict begins and how it affect individuals and communities</li> <li>• realise that not forgiving may lead to a chain of further events involving anger, hatred and escalation of the conflict</li> </ul>

Activities	Citizenship Unit 13 How do we deal with conflict	
	Learning Objectives	Learning Outcomes
<p><b>What role does the media play in the circle of violence?</b></p> <p><b>Either</b></p> <p><b>3a) Fulham Chronicle newspaper article</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pose the following question to children: How does propaganda in the media contribute towards the circle of violence?</li> <li>• Read anti German articles linked to the Lusitania riots from the Fulham Chronicle</li> <li>• Ask the children whether they think reporting like this contributed towards the violence that occurred? (link also to Euro 96 riots in Trafalgar Square)</li> <li>• Ask the children to write their own article for the Fulham Chronicle putting forward positive stories about Germans linked to the Xmas Truce and the impact of negative propaganda on individuals like footballer Max Paul Seeburg</li> </ul> <p><b>Or</b></p> <p><b>3b) Chelsea FC Chronicle Christmas Truce article</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask the children to read extracts from reports describing how the Westminster Rifles participated in the Xmas truce.</li> <li>• Ask them to try and make the article as positive as possible to counter the negative stories about Germans they have read in the Fulham Chronicle</li> <li>• Write an article for the Chelsea FC Chronicle thanking them for the footballs that were sent out to the front and describing the events that happened on Christmas Day 1914.</li> </ul>	<p>3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• about specific situations in which forgiveness and conflict resolution are implemented, eg Christmas Truce</li> <li>• some of the values expressed in these situations</li> </ul>	<p>3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describe situations in which people find it difficult to forgive, and explain why</li> <li>• explain that forgiveness and reconciliation may lead to peace, and give examples</li> </ul>

Activities	Citizenship Unit 13 How do we deal with conflict	
	Learning Objectives	Learning Outcomes
<p><b>Are forgiveness and conflict resolution possible?</b> (Both activities should be completed together)</p> <p><b>4 a) Who's for the Game?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow on consideration of the role of the media by reading and reviewing poems by Jessie Pope and William Manchester which compare war to sport.</li> <li>Consider the reality of war with the story of Francis Gibbon Swainson and his mother's grief.</li> </ul> <p><b>4 b) A Mother's Grief</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review how Kathe Kolwitz rebelled against popular propaganda in Germany and used her art to express her pacifist beliefs. <a href="http://www.kollwitz.de">www.kollwitz.de</a></li> <li>Design a stained glass tribute to Francis Gibbon Swainson for Westminster Abbey.</li> </ul>	<p>4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>about specific situations in which forgiveness and conflict resolution are implemented, eg Kathe Kollwitz's statues and drawings</li> <li>some of the values expressed in these situations</li> </ul>	<p>4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>describe situations in which people find it difficult to forgive, and explain why</li> <li>explain that forgiveness and reconciliation may lead to peace, and give examples</li> <li>realise that not forgiving may lead to a chain of further events involving anger, hatred and escalation of the conflict</li> </ul>
<p><b>Reconciliation:</b></p> <p><b>5. A Christmas Truce Window for the Abbey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit Westminster Abbey to see the tomb of the Unknown warrior and memorial to Westminster Rifles.</li> <li>Read a poem by John Hayden of the Queen's Westminster Rifles regarding how and where he wanted to be buried.</li> <li>Design a stained glass window for Westminster Abbey to honour John Hayden and Georg Maier a German soldier killed on the same day as John Hayden.</li> <li>Consider symbols of peace linked to the Christmas Truce in the design</li> </ul>	<p>5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>about the teachings of Jesus and other key religious figures concerning forgiveness</li> <li>about forgiveness: that it is not always easy and that it may have a big impact on people</li> <li>about forgiving and forgetting and the importance of the link between repentance and forgiveness</li> <li>That symbols may represent commemorative events</li> <li>to use historical sources in the locality to find out information</li> <li>to ask and answer relevant questions from the past</li> </ul>	<p>5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>understand Jesus' attitude to forgiveness</li> <li>understand the teaching of other religious leaders on forgiveness and discuss its significance to aspects of life today</li> <li>describe how it feels to forgive, or not; or to be forgiven, or not; and explain how difficult this might be for people</li> <li>respond to issues such as expecting others to forgive us if we will not forgive them; and appreciate what happens if we forgive but do not forget, and how to feel and express real forgiveness</li> <li>recognise that forgiveness can be difficult and involves empathy with others</li> <li>respect and tolerate the views of others</li> <li>explain why the poppy was chosen as a symbol of remembrance</li> </ul>

Activities	Citizenship Unit 13 How do we deal with conflict	
	Learning Objectives	Learning Outcomes
<p><b>Research Option: A contemporary situation Bosnia/Kosovo: conflict or reconciliation?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the background to the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in 1914 and how the tensions between ethnic groups were never resolved in the former Yugoslavia</li> <li>• Consider how football was used in a negative way through the actions of Arkan and the “Tigers” and how this led to genocide through ethnic cleansing.</li> <li>• In groups, pupils discuss the possibility of a shared project.</li> <li>• Carry out a similar exercise for other forms of conflict, including within pupils’ own communities (see next topic).</li> <li>• Alternatively pupils may want to investigate the events that led to the Euro 96 riots in Trafalgar Square in July 1996.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• about current situations of conflict, and the role of local, national and international groups</li> <li>• to understand why Sarajevo was a place of conflict, in a region of conflict</li> <li>• about examples of conflict, coexistence dialogue and harmony which have implications elsewhere, including in their own communities</li> <li>• to use speculative talk to develop thinking about complex issues (NSE)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand why there is conflict in and around the nations that make up the former Yugoslavia</li> <li>• describe the points of view of people who live there and are involved in the conflict</li> <li>• produce an informed summary of their own views and opinions</li> <li>• appreciate why reconciliation is difficult but necessary, and realise the need for dialogue and possible need for compromise</li> </ul>



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[www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries/archives](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/libraries/archives)