



THE POPPY BALL
16TH NOVEMBER 2018
CENTENARY ANNIVERSARY OF
ARMISTICE DAY: 1918 - 2018

LIVE ON

TO THE MEMORY OF THE FALLEN
AND THE FUTURE OF THE LIVING

HARVEY & BROCKLESS

the fine food c^o



THIS EVENING'S PROGRAMME

19:00

Welcome / Photographs

19:30

Welcome to the Poppy Ball 2018
DESC Elite Chamber Choir & DESC Staff Choir
National Anthems
Act of Remembrance, Trumpeter Daniel Walton
Grace
Dinner
Toasts
Dancing

12:30

Buffet Supper (in foyer)

02:00

Carriages

WELCOME TO YOU ALL

FROM CO-CHAIRS OF THE POPPY BALL COMMITTEE
CHRIS RATCLIFFE & ANILA 'NILS' MARTIN

On behalf of the organising committee, we would like to warmly welcome you to the 2018 Poppy Ball. We hope you all have an excellent evening of commemoration, celebration and comradeship.

Over 100 years ago, guns fell silent on the world's first truly global war. We believe it is time to think about all those who lived through this tragic and remarkable time, and to thank those who sacrificed everything, by including a few biographies of the brave soldiers who changed the shape of our world.

We also wanted to acknowledge the unsung heroes - the women left behind, the children who 'did their bit' and the animals commandeered and put to work. You can also read about the importance, not just of the RAF, but of women in the RAF, and we look into the impact the war had on mental health then and its relevance today.

We have also included some interesting facts, some you may know, and some might

be new to you. There is always something new to learn about history and its impact on us today.

In the vein of Thank You, we would like to say a massive thank Sean Heckford, the backbone of the Friends of the British Legion, and stalwart within the ex-military community. He assisted with the Poppy Ball for years before becoming Chair of the committee in 2012, and even though he is now taking a back seat, he still is very much a part of the Poppy Ball. Without him, none of this would have happened. Thank You Sean!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Her Majesties' Consul General Mr Andrew Jackson and his wife, Paola Santa Cruz de Jackson, not only to Dubai, but also to their first Poppy Ball. We hope they have a great night.

Thank you to the Head Teacher of Dubai English Speaking School and College, Mr Chris Vizard, who as always has supported us

by providing the most amazing vocal talent from the DESSC Elite Chamber Choir and DESSC Staff Choir and especially trumpeter Daniel Walton.

We would also like to thank Raffles hotel, who have been very accommodating and supportive this year.

As always, we would like to thank the Poppy Ball team who made this happen, David Wallace, Nick Williams, Rob Munn, Jeremy Doncaster, Andy Neale, John Yendall and of course Sean. We also extend hearty thanks to Matt Hebditch our fantastic 'in-house' designer. Thank you all!

Special mention to Chris Ratcliffe for continuing to organise the monthly 'Pop Down The Legion' (PDTL) gatherings, and for organising the Army v Navy rugby match. Over 100 ex-Army, Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and Royal Air Force watched this match. And so it follows that we would like to extend our thanks to McGettigans, for

hosting the PDTL evenings and the annual rugby match.

Another special mention goes to Nils, for her organisation, management and implementation of the ball, for her enthusiasm in organising these events, and for keeping us chaps 'on our toes'!

It would be remiss of us if we did not also thank the invaluable and unwavering support and patience of the partners of the committee, who have their family time disrupted. We do love you all.

But really, the Thank You is to you - our guests! Thank you for your continued support and love of the Poppy Ball, without you, this evening would not happen.

We have a lot to be thankful for.

YOU THERE!



YOUR LEGION NEEDS
YOU

'POP DOWN THE LEGION'
on the first Tuesday of every month.

McGETTIGAN'S
jlt-dubai

For more information, visit our Facebook page:
"Friends of the British Legion Dubai & Northern Emirates"



ANDREW JACKSON

HM CONSUL GENERAL TO DUBAI AND THE NORTHERN EMIRATES
HEAD OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT (DIT), UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Andrew joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1990. He has held a wide range of positions in the FCO and across government. He was Deputy Ambassador in Argentina, Counsellor for the Knowledge Economy in India, and held other overseas roles Algeria, Italy and Norway.

Other recent positions include Head of Science, Innovation and Climate Department and Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser in the FCO, Deputy Director in the Cabinet Office Joint Anti-Corruption Unit, and Deputy Director (Gulf Projects), Department for International Trade (DIT).

Outside the FCO, Andrew was Deputy Head, Secretariat to the Commission for Africa, twice seconded to the Division for Oceans and Law of the Sea, United Nations

Legal Office, and twice independent chair of global and regional multilateral fisheries negotiations.

Andrew has a Masters in Development and International Law from the London School of Economics. Further study since includes at the LSE Executive Summer School and Cranfield University.

Andrew is married to Paola and has two children.



United Kingdom in the
United Arab Emirates

THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBERING

Dubai English Speaking College has a strong tradition in Remembrance. During the course of October and November 2018, the College will be undertaking a number of activities as part of our DESC Remembers work. Launched by DESC History Department four years ago, our aim has been to commemorate and remember those who have taken part in conflict during the last one hundred years since World War I.

Each year, DESC History lead Remembrance assemblies across all year groups. These serve to honour the incredible courage and sacrifice of generations of servicemen and women who have given their lives to protect the freedoms that are enjoyed around the world today. This year, these assemblies will be accompanied by a whole school focus on remembering those associated with DESC that have been affected by conflict over the past one hundred years. Using the Royal British Legion and Commonwealth

War Graves Commission website 'Everyone Remembered' (which has over one million profiles), students will research those who fell during the conflict and produce a poppy with a brief account of each soldier's background and history. Inspired by the 2014 Tower of London display called Blood Swept Lands And Seas Of Red, these poppies will be displayed throughout DESC during this academic year before finding a home in H Block (the home of the DESC History Department). In addition, there will be war poetry readings in the DESC Library throughout the week, and a Remembrance VLOG will be presented by the department. Finally, on Sunday 11th November, DESC will pause for reflection at 2.55pm (exactly 10.55am in the UK) for two minutes silence. Marking exactly one hundred years since the end of World War I, The Last Post will be played over the DESC speaker system to mark the occasion.

Our Remembrance activities are not confined to events held at the College. Since 2008, we have undertaken an annual Battlefields trip to the World War I sites of France and Belgium, and this has become a significant event on our school calendar. Each year, approximately forty students visit key sites, following in the footsteps of those who served in the armed forces during the war. This has become a brilliant way for us to pause and reflect on enormous sacrifices that so many men and women of the British and Commonwealth armed forces (and indeed the diverse range of nationalities at DESC) made during the Great War and serves to advocate and nurture desirable characteristics such as humanity and compassion in our students.

Remembrance stirs incredibly strong emotions, not least because it focuses on something that has affected the lives of so many in our student population in one

way or another. It was therefore incredibly fitting that during our most recent tour of the Battlefields, one of our group, Brandon Cahill, was asked by the Director of Ceremonies at the Menin Gate to read the moving exhortation (They Shall Not Grow Old, As We That Are Left Grow Old...) in front of a crowd of over seven hundred people on our final evening. A first for a DESC student on the Battlefields tour and a rare honour for those who do not currently serve in the armed forces, his delivery was excellent, thoughtful and sincere. As the buglers began their nightly rendition of The Last Post, our students and staff stood silently together, remembering the fallen and reflecting on a profoundly memorable experience in France and Belgium. Long may this strength of feeling and passion for Remembrance continue at DESC.

Joe Roberts - Head of History
DESC History and Politics Department.





A VERY SCOTTISH POPPY

In 1915, Lt Colonel John McCrae lost a friend in Ypres. Poppies dotted around a war-ravaged landscape motivated him to write *In Flanders Fields* which inspired the adoption of the poppy as a national symbol.

From its establishment after WWI, The Earl Haig Fund in Scotland acquired its poppies from England; however, demand for poppies in England was so high that few reached Scotland, so in 1926 Countess Haig suggested opening a factory in Edinburgh, employing those disabled by war.

The first Scottish poppies were made by two ex-Servicemen and a pair of scissors.

Both the English and Scottish poppies have the same red hue, but in Scotland they have a four-petal flower with no leaf, and in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the poppy has just two petals and occasionally a green leaf attached.

The reason for this being Countess Haig thought it better to use the same material for the poppy rather than produce a separate leaf - which would be botanically incorrect - and believed the money saved was better spent on veterans.

Today, the Scottish factory continues to employ approximately 40,000 ex-servicemen and women to hand-assemble five million poppies and over 12,000 wreaths each year.



IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Lt Colonel John McCrae

This poem was written as the author sat upon the back of a field ambulance, located at a Forward Aid Post Essex Farm, just north of Ypres. The Aid Post is still there today, with a fitting tribute to this Canadian Medical Officer, next to the Essex Farm CWGC Cemetery. He died on 28th January 1918 at No3 Canadian Military Hospital near Boulogne and is buried nearby in the CWGC Cemetery at Wimereux.



PRIVATE 772295 WYATT, A.V.

At the age of 15, Albert Victor Wyatt left his home town of Devonport in 1911 and sailed to begin a new life as a farmer in Ontario, Canada. On 4th December 1915, Albert enlisted in the 1st Battalion of the Canadian Infantry.

On the early morning of the 9th April 1917, he was in the assembly trenches, waiting for the attack on Vimy Ridge, and shortly after the attack began, Albert was killed. He was 21 years old.

His body was recovered and buried with five of his colleagues in the assembly trench they had recently set off from. However, the grave was not located until after the war, and therefore Albert and his fallen comrades are remembered on the Vimy Memorial.



SGT 45464 CUNNINGHAM, J.

James Cunningham was born in Crossgar, County Down in 1882. A professional soldier, James enlisted as a Driver in the Royal Field Artillery in 1908. He met and married Alice a year later and prior to the outbreak of the war they had 3 children.

Two days after the first gas attack by the enemy, James, by now a SGT, and another Driver named Thomas Grocott, were attempting to recover an artillery piece that was in danger of falling into German hands as they advanced on Ypres. James, Thomas, and their horses were killed by enemy fire on 24th April 1915.

They have no known grave and are remembered on the Menin Gate memorial. James' widow Alice returned to North Devon with the children, only to succumb to tuberculosis five years later.



Private 21534 DAVIES, D.

Prior to volunteering a week after war was declared, Daniel Davies was employed as a collier in Port Talbot, Glamorgan. Married with 5 children, Daniel did not have to enlist, but on 11th November 1914 he joined the 13th Welsh Regiment, and sailed for France a year later in December 1915.

The 13th Bn were not involved on the opening day of the Somme Offensive, but they were to be part of an assault on the infamous Mametz Wood, a German stronghold, on 10th July 1916. As the 13th Bn crossed the narrow valley, enemy machine guns within the woods cut them down, inflicting huge casualties. At the Battalion roll call that evening, 362 men were missing, one of whom was Daniel.

With no known grave, Daniel Davies is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing.



Able Seaman Z/1613 McLEOD, W.S.

William Stanley McLeod was born in Glasgow on 13th April 1893. At the outbreak of WW1 he was employed as an iron moulder, but enlisted in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in October 1914.

The Royal Naval Division (RND) were sailors who were trained to fight on land as well as at sea, and William found himself as a sailor in Nelson Battalion, RND.

It was in the trenches near Achi Baba on Gallipoli, when at 17:00hrs the order "to charge, jump 3 trenches and occupy the 4th" was given. By the end of the attack, Nelson Battalion had only 40% of the Ratings left, compared to how many they had when they first arrived.

William's body was never identified, but he is remembered on the Helles Memorial, along with almost 21,000 casualties.



**LT L.C. KIDD, MC,
3 SQDN ROYAL FLYING CORPS**

Leonard Cameron Kidd was born in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, and was the pilot of a RFC aircraft that was shot down by anti-aircraft fire over The Somme on 12th October 1916. Leonard and his observer were both killed. Initially, both Leonard (23) and his observer were laid to rest in unmarked graves.



**2LT F.E.S. PHILLIPS, MC,
3 SQDN ROYAL FLYING CORPS**

Fenton Ellis Stanley Phillips was born in Bow, Devon. Fenton joined the Devonshire Regiment, earning the Military Cross for bravery, before transferring to the RFC. He was the observer for LT Kidd when they were shot down.

Both men were buried side by side in Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, but marked as unknowns, therefore their names were placed on the Arras Flying Memorial. Investigations were carried out in 2015 with evidence proving that the two airmen were those lying in the unmarked graves, and exactly 101 years to the day after they were killed, a rededication service was carried out. The names have been removed from the Arras Flying Memorial and now the airmen lie together in marked graves.



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THE ROYAL AIR FORCE 1918 - 2018: A CENTURY OF MILITARY AIR POWER

While the British were not the first to make use of heavier-than-air military aircraft, the Royal Air Force (RAF) is the world's oldest independent air force: that is, the first air force to become independent of army or navy control.

The RAF was founded on 1st April 1918 by the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service. The decision to merge the two services and create an independent air force was a response to the events of World War 1 (WW1), the first war in which air power made a significant impact. The creation of the new force was based on the Smuts Report prepared by Field

Marshal Jan Smuts. The new RAF was the most powerful air force in the world on its creation, with over 20,000 aircraft and over 300,000 personnel.

After the end of WW1, the RAF was greatly reduced in size and during the inter-war years was used to "police" the British Empire, seeing service in Somaliland, Iraq and Afghanistan. The RAF underwent rapid expansion prior to and during the Second World War. A defining period of the RAF's existence came during the Battle of Britain in the summer of 1940; the RAF held off the Luftwaffe, in perhaps the most prolonged and complicated air campaign in history.

This arguably contributed immensely to the delay and cancellation of German plans for an invasion of the United Kingdom. Of these few hundred RAF fighter pilots, Winston Churchill famously said "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few".

The main RAF effort during the war was the strategic bombing campaign against Germany. From 31 May 1942 RAF Bomber Command was able to mount large-scale night raids, sometimes involving up to 1,000 aircraft. Noteworthy raids include Operation Millennium against Cologne, the first 1000-bomber raid and Operation Chastise,

the 'Dambusters' raids on targets in the Ruhr Valley.

After victory in World War II, the RAF was to be further re-organized, as technological advances in air warfare saw the arrival of jet fighters and bombers. During the Cold War, the main role of the RAF was the defence of the continent of Europe against potential attack by the Soviet Union, including holding the British nuclear deterrent for a number of years. After the end of the Cold War, the RAF took part in several large scale operations, including the Falklands War, the Gulf War, the Kosovo War, the War in Afghanistan, and the Iraq War.



RAF SE5a



RAF Hurricane (top) and Spitfire



RAF Typhoon



RAF Vulcan Bomber and the Red Arrows



HOW THE WOMEN'S ROYAL AIR FORCE WAS FORMED

During the First World War, members of the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) and the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) worked on air stations belonging to the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS).

When the decision was taken to merge the RFC and RNAS to form the Royal Air Force (RAF), concerns were raised about the loss of their specialised female workforce. The need for a separate women's air service led to the formation of the WRAF on 1 April 1918.

9,000 women joined the new WRAF and with a civilian enrolment programme, the numbers increased to 32,000 between 1918 and 1920. They were despatched to RAF bases in Britain initially, then in 1919 around 500 women served in France and Germany.

The majority were employed as clerks, or were organised into the Household section – working the longest hours, doing back breaking work for the lowest pay; or

Technical section covered a wide range of trades, most highly skilled, including tinsmiths, fitters and welders as well as mechanics.

By 1920 over 50 trades were open to women including tailoring, photography, catering, pigeon keeping and driving. The work of these women released men for combat and proved that women could equal men in the workplace.

When the order came to finally close down the WRAF contingent in 1919, RAF sections unwilling to lose their airwomen delayed the disbandment until the last possible moment; the WRAFs had shown themselves to be an invaluable asset to the RAF.

After the war Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Commandant of the WRAF, was awarded the Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) in recognition of her work.

THE POPPY BALL WANTS TO THANK
DESSC
FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

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MENTAL HEALTH – ITS RELEVANCE THEN

Shell Shock was a term coined in WWI to describe the type of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder many were afflicted with during the war and first emerged after the Battle of Mons, the British Army's first major action. With artillery fire pounding down on both sides, not only soldiers but ambulance drivers and nurses began suffering a range of symptoms.

The term "shell shock" was ill defined as it covered a range of issues, military commanders thought it was made up, exaggerated or cowardice. Some 300 soldiers suffering from shell shock during WWI were labelled as cowards or deserters and executed due to the confusion and lack of consistency over how to classify those suffering.

Doctors and commanders started to question if lack of sleep, earth shattering noise and the sight of so much death and mutilation could actually be the cause.

In 1915, more than 11,000 men were sent to British hospitals to be treated. Early treatment included bed rest, milk, sedatives and electric therapy, much later; treatment focused more on the mind, with Dr. W.H. Rivers initiating talking therapy programmes.

By the Battle of Passchendaele, the British Army had developed methods to reduce shell shock. If rest was not enough, a casualty might be evacuated to one of four dedicated psychiatric centres labelled as "NYDN - Not Yet Diagnosed Nervous," to await further medical investigations.

During 1917, "shell shock" was banned as a diagnosis within the British Army however, by the end of the war, 80,000 officers and soldiers had suffered a severe mental disability which rendered the individual temporarily, incapable of further service.

WWI proved that anyone can be affected by a mental health disorder, whatever their background, gender or 'moral character.'



MENTAL HEALTH – ITS RELEVANCE NOW

"It can strike anybody. It has no respect to rank; it has no respect to appointment." John Stoke, Retired Major General.

Focus on mental health has increased over recent years. Media coverage, particularly during the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and armed forces charities have made the public much more aware of mental health conditions in Service Personnel, such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Life for members of an armed forces family, whether serving or veterans, can have additional worries, including: stress around deployment, extended and repeated periods of separation and social isolation from family and friends, additional and sudden caring responsibilities, exposure to high stress situations and trauma, and the difficulty of adjusting from military to civilian life.

All or any of which can take their toll on the mental health of some personnel and symptoms may not surface until years after leaving the service.

Symptoms and severity can vary from person to person and can include: constant anxiety, vividly re-experiencing a traumatic event, avoiding anything that might trigger

distressing memories or feelings and becoming socially isolated.

However, despite this, it remains a complex condition to tackle and people can suffer the ill effects of a traumatic event for months or years.

People may delay seeking help for a number of reasons, such as thinking that they can cope, fear of criticism, stigma, or feeling that therapists will not understand. However, there are treatments available to help anyone cope with the psychological consequences of exposure to traumatic events.

Sometimes asking for help is the bravest move you can make.





UNSUNG HEROES – WOMENS WORK

During WWI, the government used propaganda films to encourage women to get involved in the war effort resulting in large numbers being recruited into jobs vacated by men who had gone off to fight.

Initially there was resistance to hiring women for what was seen as 'men's work' but conscription in 1916 made the need for women workers urgent.

This led to women working in areas of work that were formerly reserved for men, for example on the railways, buses, trams, as postal workers, police, firefighters and as bank 'tellers' and clerks. They also maintained coal, gas and power supplies, and worked on precision machinery in engineering, led cart horses on farms, and worked in the civil service and factories.

New jobs were also created as part of the war effort, for example in munitions factories, and by 1917, these factories which primarily employed women workers,

produced 80% of the weapons and shells used by the British Army.

Known as 'canaries' because they had to handle TNT which caused their skin to turn yellow, these women risked their lives working with poisonous substances without adequate protective clothing or the required safety measures.

Around 400 women died from overexposure to TNT during WWI.

The high demand for weapons resulted in the munitions factories becoming the largest single employer of women during 1918. However, they received lower wages for doing the same work, and thus began some of the earliest demands for equal pay.

To women, the First World War resulted in a social revolution.



UNSUNG HEROES – CHILDREN AT WAR

Children were particularly impacted during the war with disruption to home life, schooling and absent parents. More than 340,000 lost a parent and countless more lost brothers and uncles.

However, children played a vital role and rallied to 'do their bit'; many wanted to join the Army, some succeeded by lying about their age, sometimes knowingly overlooked by recruitment officers.

The Boy Scouts' Association was one of the first youth organisations to provide practical assistance to the war effort; they guarded railway bridges, tracks and stations, telephone and telegraph lines, water reservoirs or any location of military importance.

Sea Scouts were part of a network of observers that stood watch on the coast in anticipation of German air attacks or a possible invasion.

The Girl Guides Association also took on many roles. They packaged clothing to send to British soldiers, prepared hostels and first-aid dressing stations, tended allotments to help cope with food shortages, and provided assistance at hospitals, government offices and munitions factories.

Children across Britain gave their pocket money to the war effort to raise funds for charities, including St Dunstan's Hostel for blinded ex-servicemen and the Blue Cross for sick and injured animals.

They also collected scrap metal and other essential materials that could be recycled or used for the war effort. Children younger than the school leaving age of 12 also worked in factories, such as the aircraft factory, or on farms.

In 1917, the Education Minister claimed that 600,000 children had been 'prematurely' put to work.



UNSUNG HEROES OF WW1 – ANIMALS AT WAR

Throughout history animals have accompanied soldiers into combat as modes of transport and communication, protectors and companions. They endured worse conditions than soldiers and were often exposed to the elements.

A 16 million-strong army of animals including elephants (commandeered from circuses), horses, donkeys, mules were used to transport soldiers, ammunition, weapons, water and food.

In India, camels were used to carry wounded soldiers to safety in a caucol and in Egypt the infantry realised camels were easier to control than horses and panicked far less when exposed to artillery fire. Morale boosting mascots were popular, the Third Army Trench mortar school had a monkey; HMS Glasgow rescued Tirpitz, a pig, from a sinking German cruiser, and kept it as their mascot until she retired in 1916, and Warrior, Captain Jack Seely's horse who survived fierce battles on the Somme, Ypres

and at Moreuil Wood, later named 'the horse the Germans could not kill.'

The 19th (Western) Division had an unusual mascot in the form of a lion, called Poilu. During the Battle of The Menin Road Bridge in 1917, the Commanding Officer, Major General Tom Bridges, was severely wounded by an artillery shell, which resulted in him having to have a leg amputated. When he came around after surgery he asked for the severed limb to be fed to the lion as there was a shortage of meat. Poilu was shipped back to a private zoo in Blighty and died in 1935.

Not necessarily man's best friend, but Slugs could smell mustard gas from a great distance so, when the soldiers saw the slugs close their breathing pores and compress their bodies; they put on their gas masks. Animals in war faced the same risks as humans, nine million dogs, horses and carrier pigeons gave their lives and made victory possible.



UNSUNG HEROES OF WW1 – WORKING DOGS

20,000 were trained for front-line duties including carrying aid to the wounded, taking messages between the lines and sniffing out enemy soldiers. "Their skill, courage and tenacity has been amazing. During heavy barrages, when all other communications have been cut, the messenger dogs have made their way." Lt Col Richardson.

Others were trained to pull heavy armour, machine guns and other equipment. Dogs were also fitted with apparatus for laying telephone wires and special gas masks were developed for dogs and horses as they were often subjected to artillery fire and gas attacks. Among the most important were watchdogs trained not to bark but quietly growl on the approach of enemy troops. In some instances they would just silently prick up their ears.

Canines were also used as medical dogs, venturing out into No Man's Land with 1st Aid equipment to injured soldiers. A gentleman's agreement was in place that

the medical dogs were not to be targeted (unlike their messenger counterparts). Some dogs were so well trained that they could distinguish the difference between the enemy and allies so that they went to their own side before helping others.

One of the most legendary war dogs was Rags, an abandoned French stray adopted by the US 1st Infantry Division. Although he was gassed, shelled and partially blinded, he survived the war. This was partly because he could hear shells coming before the soldiers – so he was an early-warning system too.

Dr Matthew Shaw of the British Library, which dedicated an exhibition to WW1 animals, says: "They were central to the war effort. "Without them it's likely victory would not have been secured. It would have been impossible to keep the front line supplied."

We will always be thankful to over one million dogs gave their lives during the war.



UNSUNG HEROES OF WW1 – WINGED WARRIORS

When an urgent signal needed to be sent to the front line during the Battle of Passchendaele in October 1917 a messenger was despatched. During its 21 hour journey, a bullet shot through its leg and back, and the message cylinder got embedded in its side. Remarkably, Pigeon 2709 delivered its message, sadly dying the next day.

Said to be one of the planets' toughest birds, pigeons used their natural instincts and sense of smell, following landmarks by aerial recognition to ensure messages were delivered safely.

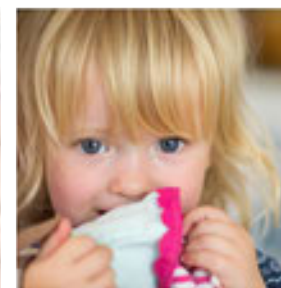
Over 100,000 birds carried rescue messages, sometimes flying in from the frontline with an incredible 95% success rate, saving countless lives. Some birds flew 20,000 miles a year.

German bullets strafed through Argonne Forest at the surviving soldiers of the 77th Infantry division, their only hope was to send messengers on a rescue mission. Two were

killed, the third was hit and blinded in one eye, she struggled for 25 miles with a gaping chest wound and one leg hanging by a single tendon, collapsing soon after her message was delivered. 194 soldiers were rescued thanks to Battlefield pigeon hero Cher Ami. She was awarded the Croix de Guerre Medal with a Palm Oak leaf Cluster for her services in Verdun.

F.Silwood of the Royal Naval Air Service released his pigeons when his seaplane engines cut out during a storm and they were stranded at sea, they raised the alarm and 16 hours later they were rescued.

32 of the 63 Dickin Medals –the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross – have been awarded in recognition of the contribution of pigeons towards the war effort.



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The term “dogfight” originated during WWI. The pilot had to turn off the plane’s engine from time to time so it would not stall when the plane turned quickly in the air. When a pilot restarted his engine midair, it sounded like dogs barking.



Landship Tanks were first used during the Battle of Flanders-Courcelette (1916). Tanks were initially called “landships.” However, in an attempt to disguise them as water storage tanks rather than as weapons, the British decided to code name them “tanks.”



The Pool of Peace is a 40-ft (12-m) deep lake near Messines, Belgium. It fills a crater made in 1917 when the British detonated a mine containing 45 tons of explosives.



During WWI, the Spanish flu caused about 1/3 of total military deaths. Nearly 2/3 of military deaths in WWI were in battle. In previous conflicts, most deaths were due to disease.



Germans were the first to use flamethrowers in WWI. Their flamethrowers could fire jets of flame as far as 130 feet (40 m).

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT WWI

- 01** Some Women 'unofficially' did their bit; Scottish Women's Hospitals were set up in the front lines after the War Office turned down help from Scottish doctor Elsie Inglis.
- 02** Of the 65 million troops mobilised during the war, 8 million died and 21 million were injured. 4 million Indian soldiers helped the UK during WWI. The youngest British soldier, Sidney Lewis was just 12 years old.
- 03** Over 100,000 women joined the armed forces during WWI after an investigation showed that many jobs done by soldiers in France could be done by women.
- 04** Blood banks were developed during World War I.
- 05** King George V sent his own pigeons from Sandringham so he could be updated on the progress of the war.
- 06** The Last Post has been played by the Ypres Volunteer Fire Service buglers every night at 8pm since 2nd July 1928, with the exception of the period of German occupation in WW2, where the ceremony was continued at Brookwood Military Cemetery.
- 07** On the first day of The Somme Offensive, 1st July 1916, the Allies had 19,240 killed or missing, and approximately 38,000 wounded. By the time the battle finished on 18th November 1916, the Allies had over 146,000 killed in action and almost 625,000 injured.
- 08** Women's football became popular; munition factories developed their own ladies football teams. Successful matches played in football league grounds drawing large crowds until they were banned in 1921.
- 09** 250,000 British Soldiers suffered a partial or full amputation as a result of fighting in the First World War.
- 10** 134 women were killed in Britain's worst wartime factory disaster at an explosion in a Nottingham ammunition factory.
- 11** The government provided funds towards the 100 day nurseries for female munitions workers. Other women had to rely on each other for childcare.
- 12** The Menin Gate Memorial contains the names of 54,896 Commonwealth soldiers who have no known grave; not including New Zealand and Newfoundland soldiers who have their own memorials. Any casualties after 15th August 1917, who have no known grave, are remembered at the Tyne Cot, Memorial to the Missing, near Passchendale. There are listed a further 34,984 missing Commonwealth soldiers.
- 13** Plastic surgery was invented because of WW1; Shrapnel caused many facial injuries and Dr Gillies pioneered the early techniques for facial reconstruction.
- 14** 12 million letters were delivered to the frontline every week; it only took two days for a letter to be delivered from Britain to France.
- 15** By the time the war ended, over two billion letters and 114 million parcels had been delivered to the trenches.



ABOUT SIMONA J

The Poppy Ball would like to thank to Simona Jachimecova for generously giving us such a prestigious artwork. Until recently, this was on display at the Etihad Modern Art Gallery in Abu Dhabi.

SIMONA JACHIMECOVA BIOGRAPHY

Simona is predominantly self-taught artist, born and raised in Trebisov, Slovakia and has lived and worked in various cities all over Europe.

Her artwork is created through a combination of her intuition and deep connection to the inspiration of the creation itself. Each painting is filled with multiple

layers of paint, building a rich history and story into each piece. Simona is influenced by the work of Lee Krasner, Joan Mitchell, Willem de Kooning, Van Gogh and Monet.

To paint, she solely uses her fingers in order to provide an intimate connection to her work. She chooses vibrant, contrasting colors in order to best demonstrate and communicate her emotions and experiences. Simona's aspiration is that her paintings bring harmony, resonance and beauty into people's lives.

Simona has participated in several group exhibitions in Dubai and her art pieces have been displayed at the art gallery in Central

London. A collection of her artwork was selected to be exhibited across the Head office of Emirates Airlines in Dubai.

In February 2015 she held her own solo exhibition called Serendipity which was inaugurated by HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Hasher Al Maktoum in Sharjah, U.A.E. In 2016 she was shortlisted for the International Emerging Artist Award in Dubai, and her work was featured in the associated book Best of 2016. In 2018 her new art pieces were exhibited at the Etihad Modern Art Gallery in Abu Dhabi and her artwork was launched in The Art Collector Book 2018 by the Middle East Art Collector Association.

Simona was a selected artist for the art project in UAE and her artwork is showing in over 700 screens across 180 residential and business towers in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

In September 2018, she participated at the art exhibition in Singapore during the Formula 1 race weekend, organized by The Rich List Group, and has just been announced as one of the finalists in the Dacia gallery solo exhibition in New York.

www.simonaj.art

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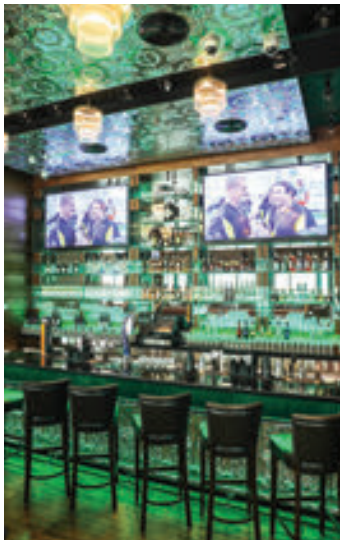
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