

Experiences and contradictions:
How did the British commemorate
the Great War in 2014?

John Mullen

<http://johncmullen.blogspot.com>

Write a definition of commemoration?

When was the last time you went to a commemoration of any sort?

What commemorative objects or institution do you know of in your town, or have you seen recently?

What events do **you** think should be commemorated collectively in our society?

"commemoration" in English

▶ See all translations

commemoration

noun [C or U] • UK  /kəˌmem.əˈreɪ.jən/ US  /kəˌmem.əˈreɪ.jən/

★ something that is done to remember officially and give respect to a great person or event:

*A set of stamps has been commissioned **in** commemoration **of** Independence Day.*

Thousands of veterans will take part in a commemoration of the battle.

commemoration



NOUN

[mass noun]

1 The action or fact of commemorating a dead person or past event.

'local martyrs received public commemoration'

'the window was ordered by the duchess in commemoration of her son'

[+ More example sentences](#) [+ Synonyms](#)

1.1 [count noun] A ceremony or celebration in which a person or event is remembered.

'commemorations of wartime anniversaries'

[+ More example sentences](#)

Origin

Late Middle English: from Latin commemoratio(n-), from the verb commemorare 'bring to remembrance' (see commemorate).

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Address bar: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=commemora 130 % Rechercher

YouTube FR

Environ 11 200 résultats FILTRES

2:59:40

World War One Remembered: Passchendaele (BBC) 30-07-2017

Heyvie • 16 k vues • il y a 3 mois

For The Fallen Live coverage of the **commemorations** to mark the centenary of the **Battle** of Passchendaele.

4:12:26

In Sacrifice for Liberty and Peace - Centennial Commemoration of the U.S. Entry into WWI

National World War I Museum and Memorial • 14 k vues • Diffusé il y a 7 mois

In Sacrifice for Liberty and Peace tells the compelling story of the U.S decision to enter into the Great War through a unique ...

Passchendaele 100: Stunning light display marks anniversary - BBC

Windows taskbar: Search, File Explorer, Mail (99+), Edge, Word, PowerPoint, Adobe Reader, Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, System tray: Network, Volume, FRA, 09:20, 27/11/2017, 18



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2010 campaign

Look at the short video.

Do you know when the events represented happened?

What kind of organization, in your opinion, made this film? (If you actually know, don't say anything!)

What is the style of the film: what impression does it give of the war?



Commemoration before 2014.
Remembrance parade 2012 in
Leicester





War monument built in 1922 in Brighton



Remembrance
traditions before 2014



2003 London demonstration against war in Iraq



Stop the War coalition



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Blame the Muslims: how government and media stoke the fires of Islamophobia



Muslims are portrayed as fanatics and extremists, caught in a clash of civilisations where the good guys are representatives of western civilisation.

Imagine the response if this had been three white Christians killed by a Muslim



Three young Muslims 'executed'. If they had been white Christians murdered by a Muslim, the entire US would have gone on lock-down and we would hear about the attack non-stop for the next month.

Barack Obama the war president spends 59 cents of every tax dollar on the military



From Syria to Ukraine. anyone looking objectively at

Public Meeting

ISLAMOPHOBIA AND THE WAR ON TERROR

Click for details...

Thursday 12 February 2015



Every generation has to fight the same battles for peace, justice and democracy. Buy the T-shirt »

Iraq war inquiry cover-up



George Galloway and Jeremy Corbyn speeches when parliament debated Chilcot »

The Winston Churchill hidden from us



Heathcote Williams on Winston Churchill - the anti-semitic, racial supremacist »

Tony Blair Watch



What is Britain's top war criminal Tony Blair up to? »

Lindsey German's Blog

March for Shaker Aamer



March for Shaker Aamer on Valentine's Day 14 February »

National StWC Events

- 12 Feb / London / After Charlie Hebdo - Islamophobia and the War on Terror
- 11 Mar / London / Stop the War Annual Fundraising Dinner
- 29 March / London / Annual Tony Benn memorial
- 04 April / Glasgow / Scrap Trident national demonstration

www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2532930/MICHAEL-GOVE-Why-does-Left-insist-belittling-true-British-heroes.html

Why does the Left insist on belittling true British heroes? MICHAEL GOVE asks damning question as the anniversary of the First World War approaches

By MICHAEL GOVE
PUBLISHED: 22:30 GMT, 2 January 2014 | UPDATED: 23:16 GMT, 2 January 2014

147
View comments

The past has never had a better future. Because history is enjoying a renaissance in Britain. After years in which the study of history was declining in our schools, the numbers of young people showing an appetite for learning about the past, and a curiosity about our nation's story, is growing once more.

As a Government, we've done everything we can to support this restoration. We've changed how schools are judged, and our new measure of academic success for schools and pupils, the English baccalaureate, rewards those who study history at GCSE.

And the changes we've made to the history curriculum have been welcomed by top academics as a way to give all children a proper rounded understanding of our country's past and its place in the world.




En attente de us-u.openx.net...

11:21

Daily Mail January 2014

www.danjarvismp.co.uk/news/barnsley-news/remember-the-unknown-soldier



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Remember the Unknown Solider

1st August 2014

As we approach the centenary of the outbreak of World War One, there are many different opportunities to engage with the commemorations.

For instance, the Lights Out campaign encourages people across the UK to turn off their lights between 10pm and 11pm on 4th August 2014, leaving only a single light or candle for this symbolic act of reflection and hope.

Whilst some people will want to attend remembrance services, others may prefer to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice by putting pen to paper.

The website www.1418now.org.uk/letter provides you with the chance to write your own letter to an unknown soldier. It can be written as if you were writing at the time of the conflict, or be used as an opportunity to express your thoughts about what we have learnt since.

All the letters are published on the site and current contributors include school children, pensioners, students, nurses and members of the armed forces. Letters have arrived from all over the UK and beyond. Many well known writers have also contributed.

The site is deeply impressive, with over 10,000 letters already published. As I wrote my letter I was struck by how many things haven't changed for soldiers, even one hundred years on.

Here is my letter:

LETTER TO AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER

I am writing to you to convey my profound and deepest gratitude for your outstanding service to our country.

I believe your selfless commitment and service stands as a shining example.

You were prepared to face danger to secure freedom for people you would never

www.danjarvismp.co.uk/news/barnsley-news/remember-the-unknown-soldier

11:24

« Labour's lead » on the commemoration



Passchendaele lager:

“When opening the bottle, please hold a minute of silence to commemorate those who fell on the battlefield,” says the label. (BBC News 11 November 2014)

Three priorities in commemorative activities

- Family history and genealogy
- local history and local pride
- Activist views of the war

According to French historian Nicolas Offenstadt.



2013 campaign



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2010 campaign

Should TV presenters be made to wear poppies? Metro readers have their say

Ellen Stewart for Metro.co.uk Saturday 8 Nov 2014 11:14 am

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Jon Snow refuses to wear a poppy while on TV – but does wear one in private (Picture: Channel 4)

Earlier this week we asked Metro readers whether TV presenters should lose their jobs in they refuse to wear a poppy while broadcasting.

The appeal for comments came after Chelsea pensioner Harry Puttick told the Telegraph: 'They should choose to wear a poppy or be taken off that

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Should smoking in cars with children be banned?

Have your say. »

The poppy hijab that defies the extremists: British Muslims urged to wear headscarf as symbol of remembrance

- £22 headscarf is backed by Muslim groups as a symbol for remembrance
- Launched tomorrow to mark 100 years since the first Muslim soldier was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery during World War One
- Designer said it was a way to say 'you're proudly British and Muslim'
- Aims to divert attention away from a minority of extremists who have burned poppies on Remembrance Sunday

By JACK DOYLE FOR THE DAILY MAIL

PUBLISHED: 01:40, 30 October 2014 | UPDATED: 09:16, 30 October 2014

 Share      **422** shares  **13** View comments

British Muslims are being urged to wear a new 'Poppy Hijab' – as a challenge to extremist groups who 'spout hatred' about the Armed Forces.

The scarf is backed by mainstream Muslim groups including the Islamic Society of Britain and profits from its sale will be donated to the Poppy Appeal.

The scarf, which costs £22, will be launched tomorrow to mark 100 years since the first Muslim soldier was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery during the WW1.



© GEORGIE GILLARD

Ella Abubaker Farooq, 24 (left), Rukea Azougaye, 25 and Taslima Chowdhury, 21 (right) from London show off the new 'Poppy Hijab' in several styles



Footballers with poppies on their shirts

YESTERDAY was a good day for Celtic on the pitch – but sadly the conduct of a section of the support overshadowed their gutsy win over Aberdeen.

On the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, it surely shouldn't be too much to ask for grown men to stand in silence for 60 seconds in respect of those who fell. [Instead, a group of Hoops fans at Pittodrie chose to interrupt this simple act of remembrance and common decency](#) – and the anger was clear in the messages sent to the Hotline's email inbox.

Chris Lowe, said: “Shameful but not surprising behaviour from Celtic as a football club in having no poppies on their jerseys for the game against Aberdeen. But not as shameful as the disgraceful behaviour of a small section of their support who yet again disrupted a minute's silence with pro-republican/anti-British chants.”

Daily Record November 10 2014

white poppies a Peace Pledge Union project

FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE

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REMEMBERING THE WASTE OF WAR
Alternative Remembrance Days

Playing: Green Fields of France | [MORE](#)

WHITE POPPIES ARE FOR PEACE

The idea of decoupling Armistice Day, the **red poppy** and later Remembrance Day from their military culture dates back to 1926, just a few years after the British Legion was persuaded to try using the red poppy as a fundraising tool in Britain.

A member of the **No More War Movement** suggested that the British Legion should be asked to imprint 'No More War' in the centre of the red poppies instead of 'Haig Fund' and failing this pacifists should make their own flowers.

The details of any discussion with the British Legion are unknown but as the centre of the red poppy displayed the 'Haig Fund' imprint until 1994 it was clearly not successful. A few years later the idea was again discussed by the **Co-operative Women's Guild**. In 1933 the first white poppies appeared on Armistice Day (called Remembrance Day after World War Two). The white poppy was not intended as an insult to those who died in the First World War - a war in which many of the white poppy supporters lost husbands, brothers, sons and lovers - but a challenge to the continuing drive to war. The following year the newly founded Peace Pledge Union began widespread distribution of the poppies and their annual promotion.

Trouble with white poppies

[in church](#) | [in school](#) | [international](#) | [in the news](#)



Also available:

- [White poppy postcard](#) | buy
- [White poppy poster](#) | buy
- [White poppy envelope labels](#) | buy
- [Remembering war](#) | buy
- [White poppies](#) | buy
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In a moving tribute to British soldiers who died in WWI, all 888,246 hand-made poppies at the Tower of London exhibition have been mowed down by machine gun fire.

Tourists looked on, horrified, as a row of specially restored Maschinengewehr 08 machine guns were rolled into place along the embankments and started to obliterate the fragile ceramic flowers. “This was always the plan,” explained artist Tom Piper who helped to devise the exhibition. “Otherwise it would have just been some sort of mawkish display of nationalism.

<http://undergroundmgzn.com/2014/11/11/tower-london-poppies-obliterated-machine-guns/>

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 - Make a donation to Centenary Woods
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 - Dreghorn Woods, Scotland
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Appeals

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One hundred years have passed since the outbreak of the First World War and we're marking the anniversary in a way that only the Woodland Trust can - with one of the most ambitious planting projects in our history.



Sainsbury's

The Centenary Woods project is supported by our lead partner Sainsbury's, helping us plant millions of native trees to commemorate the First World War.



Say a personal thank you



Dedicating a tree in our First World War Centenary Woods is a unique and beautiful way to give thanks to those who sacrificed so much.

[Dedicate a tree](#)

Help us create a living, growing tribute



Media events for the commemoration of the first world war by the BBC

DRAMAS

The Ark BBC1

Hermione Norris, Suranne Jones and Oona Chaplin are frontline nurses at a field hospital dealing with casualties. Coming in spring.

The Passing Bells BBC1

Five episodes, chronologically constructed, charting the experiences of two young enlistees who believe the conflict will be over in a few months.

37 Days BBC2

A three-part account of the events that led up to the start of the war. Starring Ian McDiarmid and Tim Pigott-Smith.

Our World War BBC3

In the style of the award-winning [documentary](#) series Our War, this [drama](#) re-creates real battlefield stories using the helmet-mounted and night-vision cameras deployed in today's conflicts.

Home Front Radio 4

The 100-hour epic, running over four years, begins in August. Fictional stories of life at home set against a factual backdrop.

•

Tommies Radio 4

Six [dramas](#) a year for four years, each covering the events of a specific day exactly 100 years earlier.

DOCUMENTARIES

Tommy and Jerry's Camera BBC4

If Vietnam was the first televised war, the 1914—18 conflict was the first to be chronicled by photographers, many of them ordinary soldiers in uniform. Two men who went into battle with both rifles and cameras were Harry Colver, a second lieutenant with the Yorks and Lancaster regiment, and German boy-soldier Walter Kleinfeldt. The programmes, on air in a few weeks, give a glimpse of daily life on both sides of the barbed wire through its subjects' camera lenses.

Colver died in December 1915 after a German gas attack, but Kleinfeldt survived the war and started his own photographic business. The photos he had taken on the Western Front were discovered only recently, stored in an old box, by his son. "They tell a remarkable story," says film-maker Steve Humphries. "The early ones captured a real sense of innocent idealism, but by 1916 and the Battle of the Somme they started to reflect the horror that was unfolding."

Royal Cousins of War BBC2

How European royal relatives ended up on opposing sides and how this led to the collapse of many royal houses.

Teenage Tommies BBC2

Fergal Keane reveals the stories of Britain's boy soldiers, 250,000 of whom enlisted to fight on foreign fields.

The Pity of War/The Necessary War BBC2

Historians Niall Ferguson and Max Hastings adopt different positions on who was to blame for the outbreak of war and whether Britain was right to enter.

The World's War BBC2

Both Britain and Germany drew on their empires for manpower — the Germans even enrolling Muslims from North Africa and the Middle East in a Jihad against the Allies.

1914 — Day By Day Radio 4

Starting in June, historian Margaret MacMillan presents a daily programme that plots the road to the outbreak of war in Europe and describes the other key events, such as the threat of civil war in Ireland, that were happening at the time.

ARTS AND MUSIC

Artists of War BBC4

Andrew Graham-Dixon explores the work of three British artists and their role in chronicling the great War.

Oh! What a Lovely War Radio 2

A restaging of the famous anti-war musical first performed on the London stage 50 years ago. On air in spring.

The Ballads of the Great War Radio 2

Life and death on the battlefield told through songs both old and new in this series, which will be broadcast throughout the season.

Music in the Great War Radio 3

For two weeks in June, the channel's daytime and evening schedules will reflect the music of the great War, from orchestral and chamber music through to trench songs and the rise of jazz.

Live in Concert Radio 3

On 28 June, the anniversary of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the Vienna Philharmonic performs live from Sarajevo, the city where he was murdered.

LIVE EVENTS

The 100th anniversary of the outbreak of war on 4 August will be marked by three commemorative events in the UK and in Belgium.

Glasgow Cathedral

A service of remembrance will be held in the morning, attended by Commonwealth leaders.

St Symphorien Military Cemetery in Mons

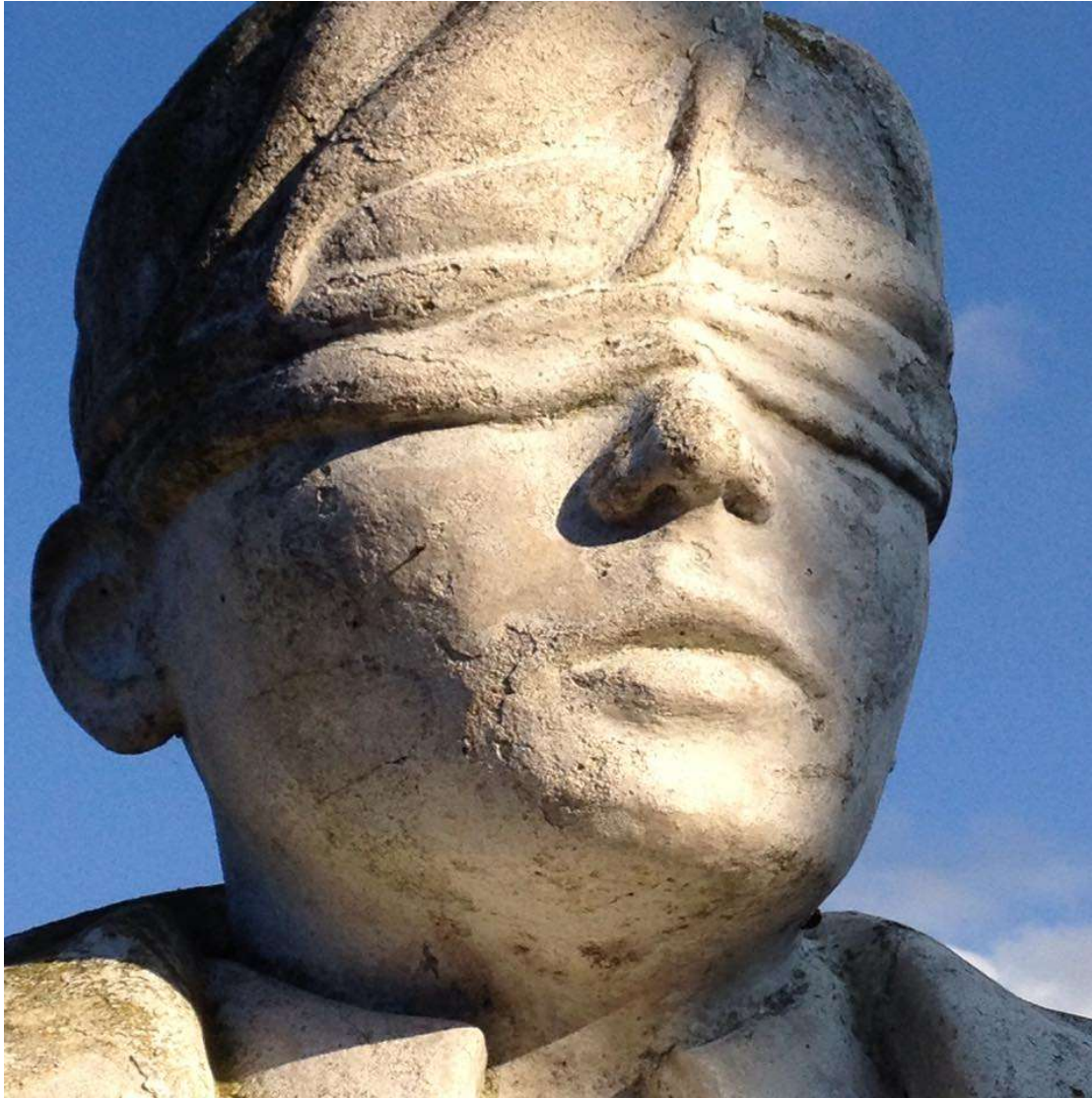
Attention switches to Belgium, where the first and last British soldiers to die in battle are buried. Many world leaders and heads of state are expected to join descendants of the dead, including German soldiers, at the ceremony.

Westminster Abbey

In the evening, hundreds of candles will be lit in a special vigil at the Abbey. One by one they will then be extinguished until, at 11pm, when war was officially declared, the final one is put out — evoking the statement of Edward Grey, the British Home Secretary in 1914, who declared on the announcement of war, “The lamps are going out all over Europe.”



Ice sculptures melting

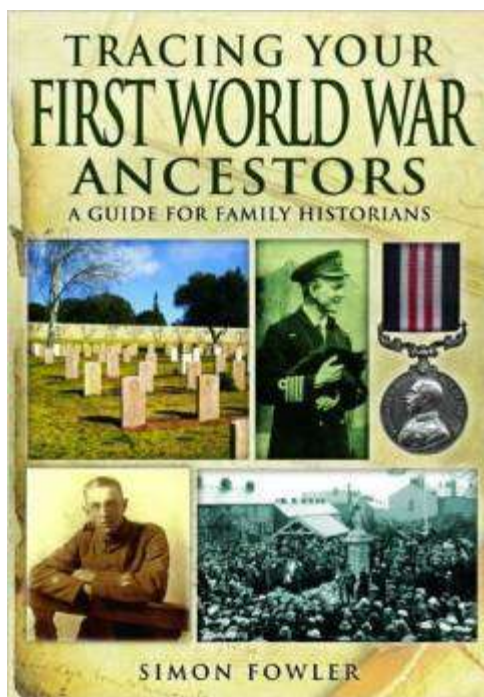


Detail of the Blindfold and Alone statue

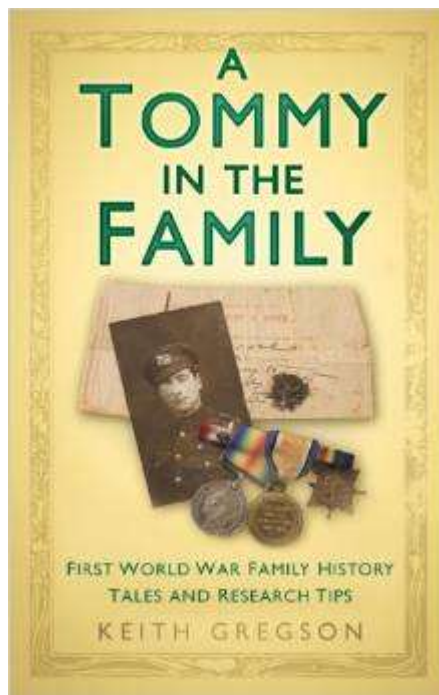




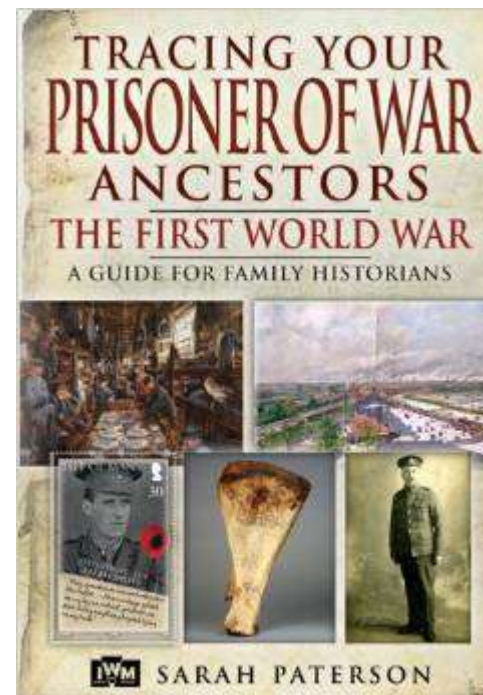
Memorial gates 2002



2013



2014



2012



Filmed and Not Forgotten - In Remembrance

We would like to thank everyone who joined us at the National Centre for Early Music on Remembrance Sunday, for our special Filmed and Not Forgotten screening as part of the Aesthetica Short Film Festival. We will be advertising more screenings soon, so please do check back for details.

[Find out more](#) about Filmed and Not Forgotten or [visit our Facebook page](#).

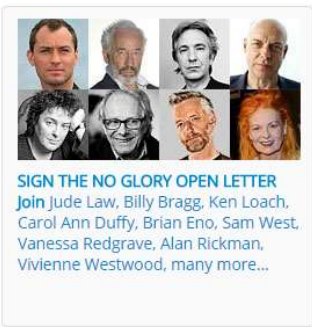




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FEATURED ARTICLES

No Glory in War Review of 2014

NO GLORY IN WAR
REVIEW OF 2014
First world war
100 years on

Matthew Crampton reviews a year of activity countering attempts by government, politicians and historians to glorify the First World War in the year of its centenary

Taste the Sainsbury's sentimentality: but what really happened in the 1914 Christmas truces?



Now the Christmas truces of 100 years ago have been sentimentalised by Sainsbury's supermarket, Jeremy Clarke says we need to remember the reality.

TIMELINE: BRITAIN'S 100 YEARS OF ENDLESS WAR 1914-2014



Timeline: 100 years of UK wars 1914-2014.
Music by Vincent Burke: On Remembrance Day »

TOP STORIES

- Latest Popular Events Video
- ▶ No Glory in War Review of 2014
- ▶ Taste the Sainsbury's sentimentality: but what really happened in the 1914 Christmas truces?
- ▶ Remember the Christmas 1914 truces: a brief

VIDEO





Special centenary beers : « Overthe top », « Lions led by donkeys », « Lest we forget »

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OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR

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Title Suggested by Ted Allan

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