

Section 14

Appendix Three

Quotations and sayings

“If I live, I mean to spend the rest of my life working for perpetual peace.”

8th September 1916: Capt. Thomas Kettle. He had been a barrister, an MP and an economics professor in Dublin. He was killed in action the following day, aged 32.

“Unless there were a war to divert the current we are heading for something very like revolution”

Basil Thompson, Intelligence officer

“A good big war just now might do a lot of good in killing Socialist nonsense and would probably put a stop to all this labour nonsense”

Osbert Sitwell

1913 Kaiser Wilhelm pointed out a General designated ‘**to lead the march to Paris**’.

“This country has gone wild with joy at the prospect of war with Serbia”.

British Ambassador in Vienna

“Every German friend of peace must fulfil his duty towards the fatherland exactly as any other German”

German Peace Society

“War is an element in the order ordained by God”

Von Moltke, Chief of the German Staff

“Happily there seems to be no reason why we should be anything more than spectators”

Prime Minister Asquith, 2 weeks before war was declared.

“Can it be that we are going to war for Serbia? That is an impossible thought!”

Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary. July 1914

“The lamps are going out all over Europe. We shall not see them lit again in our time”

Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary, 4th August 1914

“This country has gone wild with joy at the prospect of war with Serbia”.

British Ambassador in Vienna

“Every German friend of peace must fulfil his duty towards the fatherland exactly as any other German”

German Peace Society

12 out of 18 Cabinet ministers were against giving France a guarantee that Britain would send troops (2 August 1914)

“We are told international treaties compel us but who made them? The People had no voice in them.”

Keir Hardy 2/8/14

‘A Holy war of civilisation against Barbarity’ ,

French newspaper

A jihad was declared by The Ottomon empire in support of Germany

‘Russia wants to crush the culture of all of western Europe’

German socialist newspaper

“Britain is fighting not for aggression nor for advancement of its own interests but for principles whose maintenance is vital to the civilised world”

Asquith

‘We are fighting against barbarism..’

David Lloyd George

‘few English people have seen war in its nakedness... they know nothing of the poverty, destruction, disease, pain, misery and mortality whicjh follows in its train.... I have seen all of this and more.’

Emily Hobhouse in a letter to the Manchester Guardian

“I would not be out of this glorious delicious war for anything this world could give me”

Winston Churchill to Margot Asquith, Autumn 1914

‘The war left ‘a crippled broken world’

Winston Churchill

“We did not want the war to end before we had reached the trenches; we dreaded having to sit silently after the war when men only a few months older than ourselves compared front line experiences.”

Evelyn Waugh, as a teenager.

‘War, Glorious war, with its bands and marching feet, its uniforms and air of recklessness, its heroes and glittering decorations, the war of our history book.... from the cradle up we have been fed on battles and heroic deeds, nurtured on bloody episodes in one’s country’s history: war was always glorious, something manly, never sordid, uncivilised, foolish or base. When war broke out the height of my ambition was to fight for King and Country.’

Thomas Hope who served in France aged sixteen,

“It is an opportunity which will never present itself again for men to prove themselves men.”

Barnsley Chronicle on volunteering

‘The working class went to war willingly, even eagerly, like the middle class, like the upperclass, like the species’

historian Barbara Tuchman

‘It is nothing less than criminal madness for Europe’s workers to be fighting each other at the behest of the ruling classes.’

George Lansbury, newspaper editor

Every troop or regiment of troops on the march created a longing in me to get out and march with them. There was a sense of danger and service- impersonal service- which as men swung past made me wish to be with them’

George Lansbury, an antiwar newspaper editor

‘while they themselves were extremely anxious to keep the peace the fellows next door were a quarrelsome lot and that the only way to keep them quiet was to arm to the teeth.’

Edmund Morel about the leaders of European countries.

“I would rather see my sons put up against a wall and shot than see them go to the War.”

Keir Hardy 1914

“As I stood listening to the sentences of the rest of our party, the feeling of joy and triumph surged up in me and I felt proud to have the privilege of testifying to a truth which the world, as yet had not grasped, but which it would one day treasure as a most precious inheritance.”

CO after being sentenced to death then to 10 years hard labour.

'How hard it is to resist when the whole nation is in a state of violent collective excitement.. there was the same feeling of going against instinct.'

Bertrand Russell

'I desire the defeat of Germany as ardently as any retired colonel. Love of England is nearly the strongest emotion I possess and in appearing to set it aside this moment I am making a very difficult renunciation'

Bertrand Russell

'I desired the defeat of Germany as ardently as any retired colonel. Love of England is very nearly the strongest emotion I possess, and in appearing to set it aside at this moment I am making a very difficult renunciation.....'

I never had a moment's doubt as to what I must do.

I knew that it was my business to protest, however futile protest might be.

As a lover of truth, the national propaganda of all the belligerent nations sickens me.

As a lover of civilisation, the return to barbarism appalled me.

As a man of thwarted parental feeling, the massacre of the young wrung my heart.....'

I felt for the honour of human nature those who were not swept off their feet should show that they stood firm'.

Bertrand Russell

'Although I did not foresee anything like the full disaster of the war, I foresaw a great deal more than most people did. The prospect filled me with horror, but what filled me with even more horror was the fact that the anticipation of carnage was delightful to something like ninety per cent of the population. I had to revise my views on human nature.'

Bertrand Russell

'Of all evils of war the greatest is the purely spiritual evil: the hatred, the injustice, the repudiation of truth, the artificial conflict.'

Bertrand Russell

'This war is trivial for all its vastness.

No great principle is at stake, no great human purpose is involved on either side....The English and the French say they are fighting in defence of democracy but they do not wish their words to be heard in Petrograd or Calcutta'.

Bertrand Russell

“I have never felt so well, or so happy, or enjoyed anything so much... the fighting excitement vitalizes everything.”

Julian Grenfell, son of Lord Desborough, at the front who died 6 months later from shrapnel.

“When I think of the inhuman waste of a beautiful life I can hardly endure myself or be part of a world where such things were possible”

Violet Cecil about the death of her 20 year old son George but she did not oppose the war.

‘Schools are like munitions factories and ought to be turning out a constant supply of living material’

Rev Percy Kettlewell, Headmaster of school in Grahamstown, South Africa (125 of 1000 alumni who fought in WW1 were killed)

‘I daresay he is not the cleverest man but he is the most successful soldier we could find.’

about Field Marshall French

‘In my own heart I know that (Field Marshal) French is quite unfit for this great Command’

General Haig, August 1914

‘Sir John (French) as usual not understanding the situation in the least, A nice old man but absolutely no brains’

Sir Henry Wilson, his deputy chief of staff

“The little fool (Field Marshal John French) has no sense at all... He cannot read a map in scale. It is really hopeless”

Sir Henry Wilson, his deputy chief of staff

‘How I should love to have a really good ‘go’ at them in the open with lots of cavalry and horse artillery and run them to earth.’

Field Marshal John French when his strategy was bogged down in the trenches.

“I have never felt so well, or so happy, or enjoyed anything so much... the fighting excitement vitalizes everything.”

Julian Grenfell, son of Lord Desborough, at the front who died 6 months later from shrapnel.

“The chaps were all gasping and couldn’t breathe,. It was ghastly, especially for the chaps that was wounded - terrible for a wounded man to lie there! The gasping, the gasping!”

British Sergeant about a gas attack

'Take and shoot two or three of them and the 'drunk habit' will cease'
Haig on the supposed drunkenness of the British munition worker.

"Everyone who loves freedom and honour is banded in a great crusade to kill Germans! Kill them, not for the sake of killing, but to save the world, to kill the good as well as the bad to kill the young men as well as the old...I look upon it as a war of purity, I look upon everybody who dies in it as a martyr."

Arthur Winnington Ingram, Bishop of London

"I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone"

Edith Cavell, on the morning of her execution, 12th October 1915

"I shall never look on warfare either as fine or sporting again."

17th August 1916: Lieut. Graham Greenwell. He won the MC and survived the war.

'The Germans just fell down like logs'

British soldier

"I now go further still in my opinion of the War.....Your attitude is *wrong* like everybody else's at home, who doesn't realise it. If [soldiers] let people know the truth, you... would very soon alter your opinion."

6th November 1916: Major Francis Anderson. He won the MC and was killed in action in August 1918, aged 23.

"We had an awful time.....I can't express what we felt or give you a real idea what Hell looks like."

Early Aug 1915: Lieut. Hugh Butterworth. He was killed in action in September 1915, aged 30.

"Never had machine guns such straight forward work to do....they traversed to and fro among the enemies ranks...the enemy could be seen falling literally in hundreds."

A German commander at Battle of Loos.

"My machine gunners were so filled with pity, remorse and nausea.... that they refused to fire another shot"

Another German commander after the British began to retreat.

'The enemy can't go on after January (1916) and I would not be surprised to see him give in by November.'

Haig in August 1915

'My men are never in better heart and longing to have a fight'

Haig September 1915 on eve of Battle of Loos (8,000 of the 10,000 men were killed, wounded or missing in the first day)

'My attack, as had been reported, was a complete success'

Haig after the Battle of Loos (61,000 British wounded or killed and 1 mile of territory gained)

'The nation must be taught to bear losses... and to see heavy casualty lists... Three years of war and the loss of one tenth of the manhood of the nation is not too great a price to pay in so great a cause.'

Haig

'The Germans might bargain for peace before the coming winter'

Haig 1915

'All the troops here are very fit and cheery'

Haig (who was showed only the more optimistic letters from the troops)

'The situation is becoming more favourable to us. I feel that every step in my plan has been taken with the Divine help'

Haig 1916 before Battle of the Somme. 57,000 men out of 120,00 were killed or wounded on the first day.

'This cannot be considered severe in view of the numbers involved and the length of the line attacked...'

Haig on being told there were 40,000 casualties on the second day of the Battle of the Somme

'In another fortnight with Divine Help I hope some decisive results may be obtained'

A few days later

'If we don't succeed this time we'll do so the next'

Haig during the Battle of the Somme

'only a steady offensive pressure will result eventually in the Germans' complete overthrow'

Haig 1916

'Germans' breaking point may be reached this year'

Haig 1917

'Every position must be held to the last man; there must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause, we must fight to the end. The safety of our homes and the Freedom of mankind depends upon the conduct of each one of us at this critical moment'

Haig , Spring 1918

'All the villages are absolutely flat - not one stone standing on another. As you look over the vast expanse of desolation all you see is certain groups of stumps of trees, all absolutely stripped of leaves and branches'

Alfred, Lord Milner

"If the people at home could actually see....this massacring of the cream of our race, what a horrible shock it would be to them."

"...high-placed officers....kick up Hell's delight because the bayonet scabbards are not polished....It is *polished* bayonet scabbards that they want. Can you believe it?"

20th February 1917: Col. Rowland Feilding. He won the DSO and survived the war.

"It is a horrible business, enough to make a strong man weep. It seems to me just one long degradation."

Early 1916: Major Sidney Baker. He had been a school master and was killed in action in March 1918, aged 38.

"The aftermath of any battle is tragic."

21st May 1916: Second Lieut. William Dyson. He had been a candidate for the Wesleyan Ministry and died of wounds while a prisoner of war in July 1916.

"Heavy firing all morning – simply murder. Men falling everywhere...Expecting death every second...Dead and dying everywhere."

25th July 1916: Sergeant L R. Elvin. He was killed in Action in May 1915.

"The *Chronicle* published some time ago some rot...to the effect that all the troops are comfortably housed for the winter in nice warm huts....Till the autumn we hadn't even got tents, but generally just our waterproof sheets as roofs for bivvy shelters."

"I can't think that human nature ever had to stand in any kind of warfare in history what the modern infantryman has to stand."

23rd December 1915: Sergeant-Major Frederic Keeling. He was a writer on economic and social affairs and was killed in action in August 1916.

"If the dead are buried...they are buried in tens, twenties, hundreds together - they are lucky to be buried at all."

1st September 1915: Lieut. Robert Pickering. He was an Australian bank employee and was killed in November 1917, aged 25.

"Grieve for me not, my darling, but for our homeland.....one's heart aches to think of the inestimable loss to the Nation of all those precious lives."

November 1917: Private A.J. Wood. He was killed in action in November 1917.

'Reinforcements shambled up past the guns with dragging steps and the expression of men who knew they were going to certain death. No

word of greeting passed as they slouched along ; in sullen silence they filed past one by one to the sacrifice'

Soldier, Passchendaele October 1917

'Military history teems with instances where sound military principles have had to be abandoned owing to the pressure of ill-informed public opinion. The press is the best means in hand to prevent the danger in the present war'

Haig mid 1916

'So far as Britain is concerned, the war could not have been fought for one month without its newspapers'

John Buchan

"We are telling lies. We daren't tell the public the truth. You have seen the correspondents....they don't speak the truth and we know they don't"

Lord Rothermere, owner of the Daily Mail, Nov 1917

"If the people really knew the war would be stopped tomorrow"

Prime Minister Lloyd George about censorship, December 1917

'... a true British boy....He always played the game and played it to the end'

Eltham Times on the death of seventeen year old Archie Gardiner

'War would become impossible if all men were to have the view that war is wrong'

Archibald Bodkin, lawyer prosecuting a CO. To which statement all agreed!

"Once you have laid in her arms you can admit to no other mistress. You may loathe, you may execrate, but you cannot deny her. No wine gives fiercer intoxication, no drug more vivid exaltation. Even those who hate her most are prisoner to her spell. They rise from her embraces, pillaged, soiled, it may be ashamed; but they are still hers.'

Guy Chapman, World War One veteran

'while they themselves were extremely anxious to keep the peace the fellows next door were a quarrelsome lot and that the only way to keep them quiet was to arm to the teeth.'

Edmund Morel about the leaders of European countries.

'As I stood listening to the sentences of the rest of our party, the feeling of joy and triumph surged up in me and I felt proud to have the privilege

of testifying to a truth which the world, as yet had not grasped, but which it would one day treasure as a most precious inheritance.'

CO after being sentenced to death then to 10 years hard labour.

The world is divided into 'human beings and Germans'

Rudyard Kipling

"I am no longer an artist interested and curious, I am a messenger who will bring back word from the men who are fighting to those who want the war to go on for ever. Feeble, inarticulate, will be my message, but it will have a bitter truth, and may it burn their lousy souls."

Paul Nash, official war artist 1917

'The world is my country'

Alice Wheeldon

"And it was like a flash to me that this is what war did. It created utter inhumanity in perfectly nice, gentle, kindly people. I felt 'It is not right, it is wrong and I cannot have any further part in it.'"

Sybil Morrison, ambulance driver

The war left 'a crippled broken world'

Winston Churchill



"I have many times asked myself whether there can be more potent advocates of peace upon Earth through the years to come, than this massed multitude of silent witnesses to the desolation of war."

King George VI when he visited Tyne Cot cemetery near Passchendaele

It was the recognition for me that pacifism was the practical interpretation of the way of Christ..... the problem was how to activate this pacifism in the world in which I was growing up.

Rev Donald Soper, PPU

'People love to talk about a war to end war; they do not love to talk about a peace to end war.'

Aldous Huxley

'In 1600 duelling may have seemed to many intelligent people a law of nature. But the fact remains that we have abolished duelling. There is no reason why we should not abolish war.'

Aldous Huxley

"How fortunate for leaders that their people do not think".

Adolf Hitler

**Every Gun that is made
Every warship launched
Every rocket fired
signifies in the final sense
a theft from those who hunger and are not fed,
those who are cold and not clothed.**

President Eisenhower of USA 1953-1961

(Supreme Commander Allied forces in Europe 1944-45)

He opposed the collusion between Government and arms manufacturers.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

'If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear'

George Orwell.

It is my conviction that killing under the cloak of war is nothing but an act of murder.

Albert Einstein

Nothing will end war unless the people themselves refuse to go to war

Albert Einstein

Force always attracts men of low morality

Albert Einstein

The release of atomic energy has not created a new problem. It has merely made more urgent the necessity of solving an existing one.

Albert Einstein

How vile and despicable war seems to me! I would rather be hacked to pieces than take part in such an abominable business

Albert Einstein

Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth

Albert Einstein

Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding.

Albert Einstein

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing

Albert Einstein

‘We have to learn to think in a new way. We have to learn to ask ourselves, not what steps can be taken to give military victory to whatever group we prefer, for there no longer are such steps; the question we have to ask ourselves is: what steps can be taken to prevent a military contest of which the issue must be disastrous to all parties?’

Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein

“We must abandon the unworkable notion that it is morally reprehensible for some countries to pursue weapons of mass destruction, yet morally acceptable for others to rely on them for security – and indeed to continue to refine their capacities and postulate plans for their use. If the world does not change course, we risk self-destruction.”

Mohamed ElBaradei 2004