

LibriVox

First World War Centenary Prose Collection Vol. 2 January 2016

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Verlustliste Nr. 1, 12. August 1914

The first list of Austrian/Hungarian Casualties, August 12, 1914, by the Austrian Ministry of War.

The War and The Churches: Preface and Chapter III - The Apologies Of The Clergy by Joseph McCabe (1867 - 1955)

This book discusses the relation of war to prevailing creeds and standards of conduct, and the possible correlation with the decrease in Christian belief. Chapter 3 compares the different attitudes to the war of priests and clerics in various branches of the Christian Church.

An Meine Völker! by Kaiser Franz Joseph I (1830 - 1916)

Emperor Franz Joseph I. announces to his people that war has been declared against Serbia after it rejected the issued ultimatum.

War Letters from a Young Queenslander: Ypres, The Valley of the Shadow by Robert Marshall Allen (1886 - 1946)

This is a selection from the diaries of Dr Allan, an Australian surgeon. He was present at the Second Battle of Ypres, which marked the first mass use by Germany of poison gas on the Western Front, and the first time a former colonial force (the 1st Canadian Division) defeated that of a European power (the German Empire) on European soil. This personal account describes the sound of the shells, how it feels to be knocked down the blast from a passing bomb, the shelling of his first aid station and the doctor himself dragging his patients to safety in the cellar.

Prophets Priests and Kings: The Kaiser by Alfred George Gardiner (1865 - 1946)

Prophets, Priests and Kings is a book about the personality and power of various high-profile people in the late Edwardian era. It was first published in 1908, and then an updated 'popular edition' was published in April 1914, that momentous time when War hung delicately in the balance and no one quite knew if and when it would strike. This chapter on the German Kaiser Wilhelm II is read from the 1914 version. After discussing the Kaiser's personality, power, and other points of interest; Gardiner then goes on to speculate on how likely it was that "the most powerful man in Europe" would really and truly make war. His conclusion is perhaps not quite as might be expected! Alfred George Gardiner was a British journalist and essayist, and often wrote in *The Star* newspaper under the pseudonym 'Alpha of the Plough'.

Apostolischen Schreiber an die im Krieg sich befindenden Völker und ihre Leiter by Pope Benedict XV (1854 - 1922)

Pope Benedict XV's call for peace from 1915.

A Diary Without Dates: Chapter 2, by Enid Bagnold (1889 - 1981)

In her first book, *A Diary Without Dates*, published in 1918, Enid Bagnold (1889 - 1981) drew upon her experiences as a civilian volunteer in Woolwich Hospital during the First World War. In a highly personal, almost stream-of-consciousness style, she offered fragments similar to prose poems, without attempting to place them in a traditionally chronological narrative. These sketches of life in a wartime military hospital combine vivid snapshots of daily life with deeper reflections on human vulnerability to pain, fear, death, and loneliness. Bagnold went on to a long and successful writing career, remembered as the author of *National Velvet* and *The Chalk Garden*.

The Glory of the Coming: Chapter 15, Wanted: A Fool-proof War by Irvin S. Cobb (1876 - 1944)

The Glory of the Coming was compiled from articles American journalist Irvin Cobb wrote for the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1917 and 1918. In 1914, at the war's outbreak, the *Post* assigned Cobb to Belgium as a war correspondent, although he was primarily known as a humorist. His wry, sometimes humorous and sarcastic, often sympathetic everyday observations of the War made him one of the United States' most popular writers on that subject.

With the United States' entrance in the War in 1917, Cobb was again sent to Europe as a war correspondent, this time to France. Chapter 15 of *The Glory of the Coming* titled *Wanted: A Fool Proof War* shows Cobb's pride in the Americans who serve in the War in civilian capacities: Salvation Army workers, nurses, and many other volunteers. However, the main theme of this chapter is his frustration with some of the totally clueless volunteers who travel from the United States to Europe to "help" with the War effort - such as the lady who intends to help out by going to the war zone to drive a jeep, despite the fact she doesn't even know how to drive a car.

The Glory of the Coming: Chapter 16, Conducting War by Delegation by Irvin S. Cobb (1876 - 1944)

While always quick to praise and compliment the American military and other departments in their war efforts, in this chapter Cobb again expresses his frustration towards the incompetent persons who go overseas to help in the war effort, but instead cause problems. Once again much of Cobb's frustration is expressed through humorous anecdotes.

With the Allies: Chapter I, The Germans In Brussels by Richard Harding Davis (1864 - 1916)

A description of the opening days of The Great War from the perspective of an American war correspondent, culminating with the arrival of the German Army in Brussels.

With the Allies: Chapter 3, The Burning of Louvain by Richard Harding Davis (1864 - 1916)

American writer R.H. Davis witnesses the destruction of the ancient Belgian city of Louvain and the massacre of its citizens by officers and men of the German army.

With the Allies: Chapter 4, Paris in Wartime by Richard Harding Davis (1864 - 1916)

With the German army fast approaching, American writer R.H. Davis describes how Parisians and American ex-patriots deal with the crisis.

With the Allies: Chapter 5, The Battle Of Soissons by Richard Harding Davis (1864 - 1916)

The Battle of the Marne as witnessed by an American war correspondent.

Rilla of Ingleside: Chapter 4, The Piper Pipes; Chapter 5, 'The Sound of a Going'; Chapters 32 and 33 by Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874 - 1942)

Rilla Blythe, Anne Shirley's youngest daughter, is turning fifteen and at her first really grown-up party when the war shatters her dreams. In these selections, we follow Rilla as she receives news of the war, bids her newly enlisted brother goodbye, gets word from her missing brother, and celebrates victory after four long years.

Chapter 20: Assassination of Franz Ferdinand - Austria's Ultimatum from The Story of the Great War, Vol. 1, edited by Allen Leon Churchill (1873-?), Francis Trevelyan Miller (1877-1959), Francis Joseph Reynolds (1867-1937)

This section begins by explaining the geopolitical environment that led to the assassination of the Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand, then describes the details of the assassination on 28 June 1914 in Sarajevo, and ends with a verbatim reading of the resulting ultimatum that Austria-Hungary delivered to Serbia.

Chapter 21: Serbia's Reply from The Story of the Great War, Vol. 1, edited by Allen Leon Churchill (1873-?), Francis Trevelyan Miller (1877-1959), Francis Joseph Reynolds (1867-1937)

In this section the listener will hear the official Serbian reply to the ultimatum that was delivered to it by Austria-Hungary following the assassination of Franz Ferdinand by a Serbian terrorist in Sarajevo on 28 June, 1914.

Chapter 22: Diplomatic Exchanges from The Story of the Great War, Vol. 1, edited by Allen Leon Churchill (1873-?), Francis Trevelyan Miller (1877-1959), Francis Joseph Reynolds (1867-1937)

After Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia, representatives of the Great Powers struggle to keep the conflict localized and thus prevent the outbreak of general war across the continent.

Chapter 23: Preparation for War from The Story of the Great War, Vol. 1, edited by Allen Leon Churchill (1873-?), Francis Trevelyan Miller (1877-1959), Francis Joseph Reynolds (1867-1937)

Diplomatic efforts to contain and limit the conflict are trumped by military imperatives and general war descends upon greater Europe.

Instructions to the British Soldier by Field Marshal Horatio Herbert Kitchener KG, KP, GCB, OM, GCSI, GCMG, GCIE, ADC, PC (1850 - 1916)

At the beginning of the war, Field Marshal Herbert Kitchener cautions soldiers bound for France and Belgium that they should be courteous and chaste while abroad.

A Scrap of Paper by David Lloyd George, 1st Earl Lloyd-George of Dwyfor, OM PC (1863 - 1945)

In a speech at the Queen's Hall in London on September 19, 1914, David Lloyd George, then the UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer, argues that the war must be fought in defense of "little nations" against German aggression.

Extract from Lecture 'How We Stand Now' by Gilbert Murray (1866 - 1957)

Gilbert Murray, a British scholar known for his translations of ancient Greek plays, describes his pride in the sacrifices made by the workers and soldiers of Great Britain.

Krieg dem Kriege by Kurt Tucholsky (1890 - 1935)

German journalist and satirist Kurt Tucholsky reminds his readers of the hardships of WWI and warns them not to start another war. He ends with a call for "war on war - and peace on earth."

Lettre Ouverte à Gerhart Hauptmann by Romain Rolland (1866 - 1944)

In *Au dessus de la mêlée* (Above the battle) he expresses his opinion about WWI and who was responsible for this bloodshed and war in general. He doesn't "follow the pack" and when almost everybody in France considered Germans as barbarians, he distinguishes between the German people and their powerful authorities.

Prologue to Men, Women And Guns by Sapper (1888 - 1937)

Sapper was the pseudonym used by Herman Cyril McNeile MC, creator of the Bulldog Drummond stories during the time that he was an officer serving with the Royal Engineers during WW1. In this Prologue to his book of stories about that war, "Men, Women and Guns" he attempts to describe what the experience of being shelled is like.

History Of The American Field Service In France Vol. 1, The Sensation of Night Driving by Robert W. Imbrie (1883 - 1924)

Many of the ambulance drivers in WW1, working under extreme conditions were volunteers, both women and men. Collecting the wounded from front line dressing stations was often done at night and meant driving without lights to avoid being targeted by enemy snipers and artillery. In this excerpt Robert Whitney Imbrie gives a small insight into this task that all these drivers needed to undertake.

Grodek by Georg Trakl (1887 - 1914)

Grodek, the--very likely--last and most important poem of the Expressionist poet Georg Trakl, was written in 1914, during the battle of Grodek in Galicia (now Ukraine) where the Austrians suffered a major defeat facing the Russian army. Trakl took part in this battle as a medic. Helpless to cure the unspeakable horror of this war, he committed suicide in a Cracow Hospital (cocaine overdose causing a heart paralysis) a few days later (4-11-1914).

The poem speaks about the opposition and contrast between the indifferent beauty of nature and the destructive essence of war.

Harvest by John Galsworthy OM (1867 - 1933)

This non-fiction piece is from *The book of the homeless* (1916), edited by Edith Wharton. Proceeds from sales of this book were donated to war refugee organizations.

Discours prononcé à la Sorbonne, lors du meeting 'Hommage à l'Arménie' by Anatole France (1844 - 1924)

A tribute to the Armenian people by Anatole France delivered on 9th April 1916, following the Armenian genocide of 1915.

The Blackest Page of Modern History: Events in Armenia in 1915, Chapter 1 by Herbert Adams Gibbons (1880 - 1934)

"In April 1915, the Ottoman Government began to put into execution throughout Turkey a systematic and carefully-prepared plan to exterminate the Armenian race. In six months nearly a million Armenians have been killed. The number of the victims and the manner of their destruction are without parallel in modern history." Thus begins the first chapter of this account of the deportation and massacre of virtually every Armenian living under Ottoman rule. As the author says, "Could you conceive of human beings allowing wild animals to die a death like that?"

Selection from Letters of a Soldier, 1914-1915, anonymous

"Man is hunting man, and in a moment they will be locked in fight. Meanwhile the lark is rising." A young French soldier writes to his mother and grandmother from the Western Front. His artist's eye describes the beauties of bravery and Nature which he sees around him, juxtaposed with the horrors of war. "Death prevails, but it does not reign. Life is still noble. I picked some flowers in the mud. Keep them in remembrance of me."

Chapter III: The Liberty Girls from 'Mary Louise and the Liberty Girls' by L. Frank Baum (1856 - 1919)

After the U.S.A.'s entry into the war, people were urged to show their patriotism and aid the war effort by purchasing government Liberty Bonds. In this fictional tale, Mary Louise's grandfather is on the Liberty Bond Committee and is finding it hard to persuade the townsfolk to buy the bonds. Mary Louise and her friends decide to help!

The Passing of a Zeppelin by Lewis R. Freeman (1878 - 1960)

An eye witness provides a surreal word-picture of a dark night in 1916 when the capital city of the British Empire is attacked by a German dirigible.

The Soul of a Nation (Armistice Day 1920) by Philip Gibbs (1877 - 1962)

A commemorative piece written for the installation of Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey after the end of the Great War. It narrates the proceedings of the ceremony and reflects on the sacrifices made by the British soldiers and their families during

the war.

The Message of Spiritualism in the Present Crisis by Elizabeth Harlow-Goetz (1866 - 1950)

This is an unusual publication from an address given by Elizabeth Harlow Goetz to the National Spiritualists Association in October 1919, a few weeks before the official end of the War. This aspect of the War hadn't occurred to me, although it was logical that there would be a surge in spiritualism during wartime. Other than a few writings and a smattering of other items, I found very little information on Mrs. Goetz herself. Find-a-Grave led me to an Elizabeth Harlow Goetz buried in Haydenville, Massachusetts, born 1866, died 1950. Assuming this is the same Mrs. Goetz I can't help but think that when World War II began, she probably felt very sad recalling some of her words from her 1919 lecture: "You are filled with life's possibilities now. You are living Gods in the eternal home of the now. You have learned how to pray together, you must now learn how to live together, and all evil will be overcome."

Mary Postgate by Rudyard Kipling (1868 - 1936)

Described by his nephew as the most evil story ever written, this piece is Kipling's call to arms to England. When Mary Postgate's intense feelings for the youth, Wynn, slaughtered in war, are released through her reactions to a German aircraft pilot quite unexpectedly put into her power, the question arises; is she indulging in a private fantasy or a studied act of extreme political violence? You decide.

Lingo of No Man's Land by Lorenzo Smith (1892 - 1965)

Lorenzo Smith left his home in Massachusetts to join the Canadian army in 1915. After being wounded at Messines and receiving an honorable discharge, he returned home and joined the Recruiting Mission, addressing audiences around Canada and the United States. Discovering that his civilian listeners were frequently baffled by such unfamiliar terms as "Blighty" and "whiz-bang", Sgt. Smith wrote "Lingo of No Man's Land" in 1918. This helpful dictionary of front-line words and phrases is just as useful to modern readers as it was to those of the era in which it was written.

Story VI Ghosts from Tales from a Famished Land by Edward Eyre Hunt (1885 - 1953)

Edward Eyre Hunt was an American delegate of the Commission for relief in Belgium in charge of the Province of Antwerp. "Ghosts" is one of the fourteen stories from Mr. Hunt's book, *Tales from a Famished Land*. The inspiration for these stories was the author's experiences serving on the Commission during the First World War.

Army Boys on the Firing Line, Chapter XIV of The Storm of War by Homer Randall (pseud.)

While huddled in their trench under an enemy artillery barrage, three plucky American 'dough-boys' contemplate the German attack that will most certainly follow. A classic example of early 20th Century, American juvenile-fiction, with lots of good old Yankee stoicism and hubris.

Birds as Messengers from Birds and the War by Sir Hugh Steuart Gladstone (1877 - 1949)

Sir Hugh S. Gladstone was an eminent ornithologist, known especially for his expertise on British birds. Among his numerous books and articles was *Birds and the War*, published in 1919, in which he examined the effects of the First World War on the wild bird populations of the war zones. In the chapter selected for this collection, "Birds as Messengers", he discusses the effective use of homing pigeons as military messengers.

Chapter XV, Austria-Hungary and Germany Surrender from The Story of the Great War, Vol. 8, edited by Allen Leon Churchill (1873-?), Francis Trevelyan Miller (1877-1959), Francis Joseph Reynolds (1867-1937)

The capitulation of the three Central Powers, Turkey, Austria-Hungary and Germany in the Fall of 1918 and the terms of Armistice for each.

Statement to the Court Upon Being Convicted of Violating the Sedition Act by Eugene

V. Debs (1855-1926)

Eugene V. Debs was the Socialist candidate for President of the United States who was sentenced to ten years in prison for saying in a speech during World War I that "The rich start the wars; the poor fight them." This is his statement to the court which convicted him of violation of the Sedition Act.

A Selection from *The Worn Doorstep* by Margaret P. Sherwood (1864 - 1955)

The Worn Doorstep is a novel written in the form of a journal. The writer is an American engaged to a British soldier, who loses his life in the early days of the war. In her grief she seeks refuge by renting a small cottage in a village, hoping to live as they would have lived when married. She writes in her journal each day, as though communicating with her deceased fiancé. Eventually the people of the village, soldiers, refugees, and others give her a new appreciation of life.

Two main characters in the book are the housekeeper Madge and her husband Peter. A former soldier in the South African War, Peter at first refuses to fight in this war. The selections I chose to record concern the changes the war has on Peter, his decision to fight for his country, and the changes it brings to his life and the lives of others.

Masks and Faces from *The Happy Hospital* (1918) by Ward Muir (1878-1927)

Ward Muir was a Liverpool-born British journalist, novelist, and photographer. During WWI, he volunteered for the Royal Army Medical Corps (R.A.M.C.) serving as an orderly at the 3rd London General Hospital and also as editor of the hospital 'Gazette'. He published two books based on his wartime hospital service: 'Observations of an Orderly' (1917) and 'The Happy Hospital' (1918). From the latter book is taken the chapter 'Masks and Faces', which describes the work of the hospital's 'Masks for Facial Disfigurements Department'. This department sculpted prosthetic masks disguising soldier's disfigurements from facial wounds too horrific to be entirely fixed by surgery alone.

Merchantmen-At-Arms: Independent Sailings by David W. Bone (1874-1959)

How lone merchantmen fought back against the U-Boats before the convoy system was established.

Warriors of the Paint Brush, Ch. 11 of *Inventions of the Great War* by A. Russell Bond (b. 1876 fl.1930)

During WWI, one question was how to conceal ships from the eyes of submarines and artillery from airplane spotters. This brought a hurry call for the artists, and up to them was put the problem of hiding ships and guns in plain sight. A new name was coined for these warriors of the paint-brush on both land and sea: camoufleurs they were called, and their work was known as camouflage.