

World War 1

By Harry Rubotham



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How it started

- WW1 began following the assassination of the Austro - Hungarien Archduke Franz Ferdinand by South Slav Nationalist Gavrilo Princip on June 28, 1914.
- Before June 1914, countries in Europe were building their empires, and the assassination was a tipping point for them to go to war.



1914

- Germany entered the war on the 1st of August 1914.
- Germany, Austro - Hungary and Italy made an agreement to not attack each other, this was called the **Triple Alliance**.
- United Kingdom, Russia and France also made a similar agreement not to attack each other, this was called The **Triple Entente**.
- Other countries such as Romania and Bulgaria were allies to Russia.



Cont.

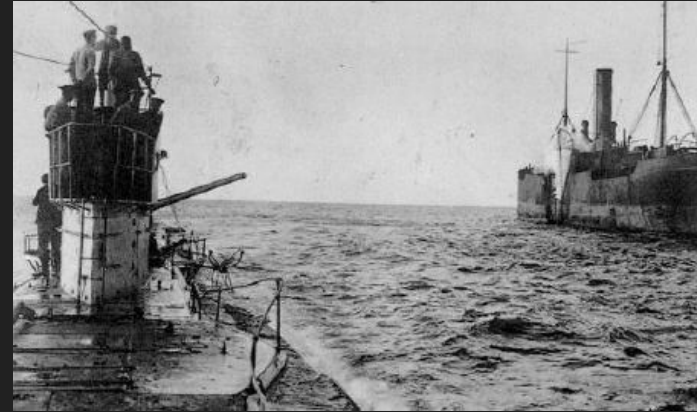
1914 continued : Trench Warfare

- The Majority of World War 1 was fought in the trenches in France.
- The Trenches were man made and stretched for 100's of miles.
- The conditions which the soldiers lived in were horrendous, and the trenches often filled with water and rats.
- It is estimated that between 8.5 to 12 million soldiers died while in the trenches.



1915

- German U-boats were sent to make a blockade around England, the purpose of this was to sink all boats carrying food on it's way to England.
- Italy made their first move of the war by declaring war on Austro - Hungary. They immediately advance into the South Tyrol Region and to the Isonzo River. At the Isonzo River they were met by the Austro - Hungarian troops, who met them with a stiff defence.



1916

- In 1916 the Irish rebelled against England for their Independence.
- The English Government had concentrated the majority of their troops in Europe. With the focus now taken away from Ireland the Irish took this opportunity to begin their fight for independence against British rule.
- This rising was brief and although the rebels were not victorious it was the beginning of what would become a free state / Irish Republic.

Cont.

1916 Continued :

- Over in central Europe the German Alliance had the most leverage by this stage.
- The Germans were marching into France and the French were forced to retreat and look to England for backup.
- This period was the biggest point in the Trench Warfare.
- Land between the opposing armies trenches became known as NO MAN'S land.
- Soldiers that tried to cross the No Man's land were most likely killed. Their bodies laid there for long periods of time as it was too dangerous to retrieve them. This lead to large spread of disease in the area.

Description of a soldier

Uniforms : Soldiers wore Khaki coloured uniforms with a circular metal helmet.

Food : Food was mostly from canned products and very little fresh fruit or veg was available.

Hygiene : Was very poor and a lot of soldiers became ill while in the trenches.



Uniform comparison :



German
Soldier in
Uniform



British Soldier in
Uniform

1917

- On the 6th April 1917, two and a half years into WW1 the American's joined the Allies and declared war on Germany. Up to this point President Wilson believed that America did not need to concern themselves with Europe.
- The German's sank an American cruise ship off the coast of Ireland, and it was this act that brought the American's into WW1.

1918

- In 1918 the German's were making their last attack on France but the French army along with forces from England and America fought back with no fear and Germans were forced to retreat to the Belgium / German border.
- Back in Germany the people were starving as the British navy had blocked their supply lines and food supplies couldn't get into the country.
- Around the same time the Russian's also withdrew from the war due to civil unrest in their own country.

How it ended

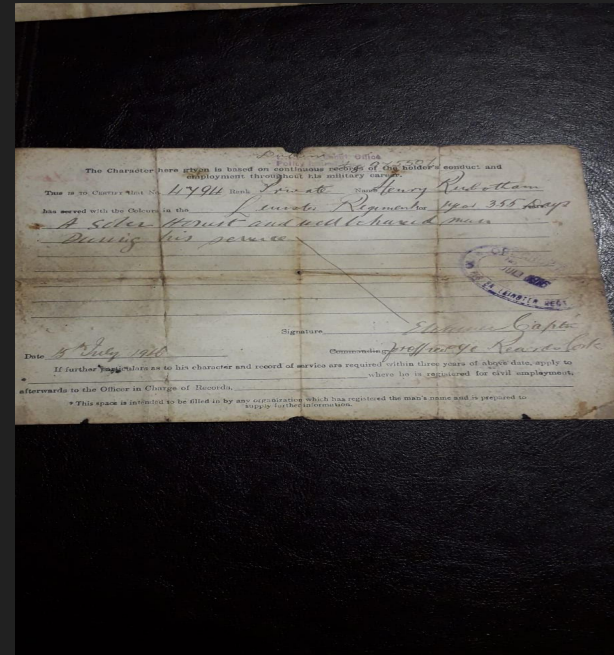
- On the 11th November 1918 at 11 o'clock the guns fell silent and the war ended.
- Both sides were tired, the trench warfare had not worked. The war ended in a stalemate even though the Allies claimed the war as a victory.



My connection with World War 1

- My Great Grandad Henry Rubotham enlisted in the British army and fought in Trenches and was shot and wounded in the battle of the Somme in 1916.
- He was 18 years of age when he joined

Here are some copies of his papers :



World War 1 Papers Henry Rubotham

Army Form B. 2075
 WARNING - If you have been discharged from the Army, you must not re-enlist without the consent of the War Office, London, W.C. 2.

Rank: *Private*
 Name: *Henry Rubotham*
 Regiment: *Coventry Coy. P.*
 Discharged on: *13th May 1914*

He is discharged in consequence of being found *"no longer physically fit for war service"*
 after serving *1* years *355* days with the Colours, and *74* days in the Army Reserve.
 (Place) *Coth. E.* Signature of Commanding Officer: *James Barker*
 (Date) *15th July 1914* Officer: *James Barker*

Description of the above-named man on *13th May 1914* when he left the Colours:
 Age *20yr. 2mo.* Marks or Scars, whether on face or other parts of body.
 Height *5ft 3 1/2 in.*
 Complexion *P*
 Eyes *B*
 Hair *Fair* *None*

* Should agree with the description on Character Certificate, Army Form B. 2067.

A2977 Wt. W8212/2755 390.000 8/15 - D. D. & L. Sec. 44. Forms. 11.2079/21

Recruiting Agents.

The following is an extract from the Recruiting Regulations, 1912 -

"Any man, whether Soldier or Citizen, who brings a recruit to the attention of a Recruiting Agent, and it is not necessary that he should have been formally appointed as such."

The effect of this Regulation is that anyone, whether ex-Soldier or Citizen, bringing a recruit under the above Regulations is entitled to the reward if the recruit is passed into the Service.

Recruiting Rewards will not be paid for -

- (1) Boys under 17 years of age
- (2) Re-called Personnel.
- (3) Recruits for the Armourer Section and the Machinery Artificer Section.
- (4) Any Non-Commissioned Officer or Man of the Special Reserve who enlists into the Regular Army.

Recruiting Rewards will be paid to Recruiting Agents for each recruit raised and finally approved for the Regular Army or the Special Reserve, as follows -

5s. to 2s. 6d. Regular Army.
1s. 6d. Special Reserve.

Letters showing the conditions and advantages of the Army or Special Reserve are supplied with every Post Office.

Men wishing to enlist should apply personally or by letter to the Officer Commanding the Regimental Depot nearest to their homes, or to any Sergeant Instructor of the Territorial Force or other Recruiter.

Men who have served in the Regular Army for 3 years or more are eligible under certain conditions for enlistment into the Special Reserve up to the age of 40.

Physical Examination Form

Date of Examinee at *Coth. E. 5. 8. 14*

Proceeded on Furlough pending transfer to the Army Reserve or Discharge on

Passed medically fit for the Army Reserve on

Date for final Discharge *31st July 1914*

On account of *Discharge* *Discharge* *Discharge*
Not longer physically fit for
war service

Exp. to France
1915

Educational and other Certificates, and dates

World War 1 Papers Henry Rubotham Cont.

G. D. & J. LONDON, E. C. 4.
 4190 W. 101st Street, NEW YORK, N. Y. U.S.A.
 Patent Pending.

Army Form B, 2067.
 Social No. 1000

CHANGING CERTIFICATE OF NO. 12994
 Rank Plt Name Henry Rubotham
53 Leicesters Regiment,
 Born in the Parish of St Francis
 near the Town of Dublin in the
 County of Dublin on the
 date 13 5 1896
 Trade as stated by him on enlistment Carpenter

DESCRIPTION ON LEAVING THE COLOURS.
 Height 5 ft. 3 1/2 in. Identification Marks: —
 Complexion —
 Eyes —
 Hair Fair None
 Signature of Soldier

* To prevent impersonation.
 In the event of any doubt arising as to the bona fides of the
 bearer, the above description and signature should be carefully
 compared with present appearance and handwriting.

Campaign 1914-15 (A) Where decoration was earned.
 (B) Present situation.

Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Medal	Roll	PAG
(A) RUBOTHAM	Leicesters R	Plt	4794	VICTORY	A/100/7	727
(B) H.				5 STAR	A/114	118

Action taken Disc.
Subst. A/100/7
 THEATRE OF WAR. (1) France
 QUALIFYING DATE. 7 9 15
(S 24 48) W 284-11P560 000,000 4/10 B.W.V(1240) K.000

Picture page



Conclusion

Thanks for reading my
presentation

Harry Rubotham

