

A soft-focus photograph of a field of red poppies. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a bright, hazy sky, creating a peaceful and somewhat somber atmosphere.

Life After the Armistice

Session 2 – Voices of the Dead



Impact of Death



Impact of Death

- In 1914 people, by and large, viewed war as a patriotic adventure.
- But this was to be a war different from any that went before it.
- It was the first global war, the first mechanised war and the first war to be covered by media such as film.





Impact of Death

- By 1918 most people viewed the war as a tragedy.
- But few families had been left untouched by death and injury.
- The country still needed to view the fallen as heroes and to give some sort of honour to those who returned to their homes.





Impact of Death

- In France and Britain, notwithstanding the perception that the war was a tragedy, the fallen and the veterans are revered.
- 11th November is a public holiday in France (Mort pour la France)
- In Great Britain and Belgium the day is still remembered.
- In Australia and New Zealand, Anzac Day on 25th April is a sort of national holiday.
- By contrast, in Germany, Russia, Austria, and Japan, an official day of remembrance was never introduced.





Impact of Death

- One result of the style of warfare of WW1 was a level of casualties unknown in previous conflicts.
- The dead were international:
 - Approximately 2 million Germans
 - 1.3 million Frenchmen
 - 720,000 British
 - 61,000 Canadian
 - 60,000 Australian
 - 18,000 New Zealand
 - at least 2,000 Chinese





Impact of Death

- Many of those who survived were injured in the course of the fighting;
- Some injuries, such as facial traumas, resulted in the victim being shunned by wider society and banned from public events.
- These losses also left large numbers of widows and orphans – 1.36 m in France alone – and affected most families in some way:
- in Australia, every second family had lost a relative.
- Even those left at home had suffered extensively from stress, anxiety and grief.





Impact of Death

- In the years after the war, veterans, the bereaved and the rest of society focused, to the point of obsession, with the problem of death.
- There was tremendous interest in creating war memorials that celebrated the themes of glory, heroism and loss.
- Some memorials were of radically new designs but others were very traditional.





Impact of Death

- As the war progressed, memorials began to be created in most countries, either in civic centres, personal homes or on the battlefields themselves.
- Memorials took various names across Europe.
- Amongst English-speaking countries, such memorials had previously been called fallen soldiers' monuments.
- The term "war memorial" became popularised by the conflict, drawing attention to the role of society as a whole in the events.





Impact of Death

- In Britain and Australia, early memorials were closely linked to the need to promote military recruitment.
- The state had an ambivalent attitude towards the informal memorials that emerged during the conflict.
- In Britain, stone memorials to the war began to be erected in towns and villages from 1915 onwards.
- Some of these were given out by the state as rewards to communities for meeting military recruitment targets.





Impact of Death

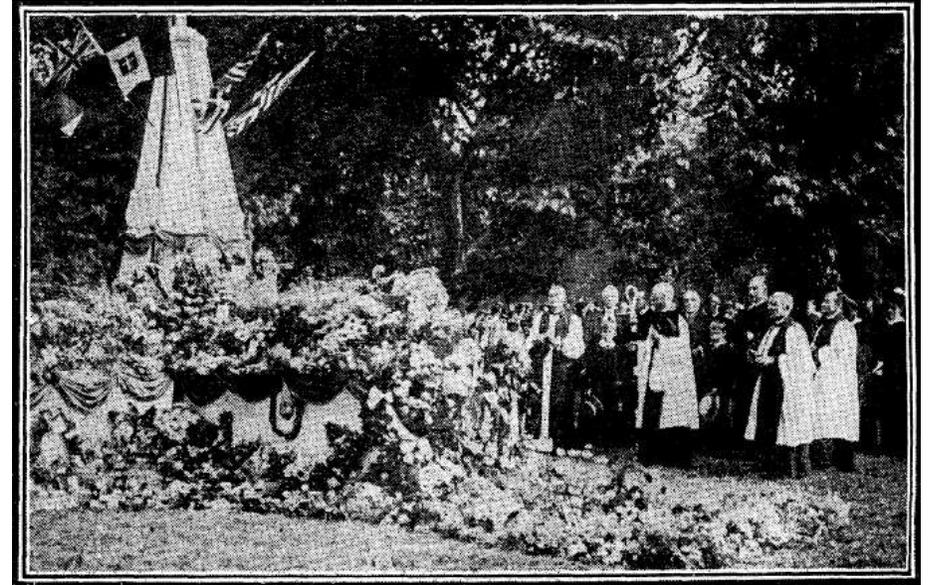
- As casualties increased, rolls of honour listing the dead began to be displayed in Britain and honour tablets with the names of those who had enlisted were put up inside Australian buildings.
- Australia used these lists to apply moral pressure on those who were not yet joined up.
- Informal memorials began to multiply as the war progressed.





Impact of Death

- In Britain, some Anglican church leaders began to create street war shrines to the dead.
- These cheap, local memorials were mainly constructed in working class districts.
- They were often built from wood and paper, and were used for holding short services in honour of the dead and to hold donations of flowers.
- They were criticised, however, as promoting Catholic ritualism.





Impact of Death

- Official support for the shrines only came after a national newspaper campaign, efforts by the Lord Mayor of London and a well-publicised visit from Queen Mary to a shrine.
- Standardised stone shrines then began to replace the earlier, temporary versions.





Liverpool Echo - Monday 16 July 1917

**MEMORIAL TO HEROES IN
MIDST OF HUSTLE.**

The Lady Mayoress unveiled, to-day, a beautiful little war shrine outside the old church of St. Peter's. Some hundreds of people witnessed what, but for the heavy downpour, might have been a deeply impressive ceremony.

Liverpool has been slow to follow London's partiality for these little wayside memorials of the men who have suffered and died, but this new shrine set amid the hustle and bustle of Church-street, is a touching reminder "lest we forget."

Erected on the outer wall of the church, it takes the form of a replica of the famous painting of the khaki figure, a bullet mark in his temple, lying under the shadow of the crucifix. "Greater love hath no man than this," is its title.

The picture hangs under a small canopy, whilst underneath is a little shelf, on which vases of choice lilies and roses are symbolic of fragrant memory. Lower down is a list of names—many more have to be added—of parishioners who have made the great sacrifice.

The Lord Mayor said they were met to do honour to some of those noble heroes of the city who had fought the good fight for the cause of freedom and civilisation, and who had made the greatest sacrifice any man could make for his fellow men and his country. "Here, near this old church, of which we are all so proud, and which is so close to the heart and bustle of the active life of the city, this memorial will stand for all time to tell what an Englishman could do in the time of crisis and when duty calls."

Then the Lady Mayoress drew aside the covering and disclosed the tasteful shrine to the public. She said she did so in everlasting memory of those soldiers who had died so nobly for their country.

Archdeacon Spooner, with whom was the rector and the parochial clergy, afterwards recited a number of appropriate prayers, and the boys' choir led in the singing of "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," followed by "God Save the King."

Lads of the 95th Troop of Scouts formed a guard of honour for the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, who were received at the church by the wardens, Alderman Muirhead and Mr. J. Adams Bartlett.



Impact of Death

- During the conflict itself, monuments were erected near the battlefields and the temporary cemeteries being used to store the dead.
- It had been hoped in Britain to repatriate the war dead, but this rapidly proved entirely impractical, leading to haphazard, improvised arrangements around the battlefields.
- By 1916 over 200 war cemeteries had been commissioned in France and Belgium, prompting debate about what longer term memorials might be appropriate at these sites.





Impact of Death

- The government was concerned that unsuitable, even distasteful memorials might be erected by relatives at the cemeteries.
- The decision was taken that the cemeteries would be controlled by the state.
- A uniform design would be applied to the memorials at the graves.





Impact of Death

- The Armistice of 11 November 1918 effectively ended the Great War, and many hoped that “all wars” had ended that day.
- However the conflict was only officially concluded with the signing of the peace treaties in June 1919, and victory parades took place that summer.





Impact of Death

- Yet some objected to exultant military parades, and a number of ex-servicemen even refused to participate.
- As a result, the first Remembrance Day ceremonies were commemorative rather than triumphant:
- “Today is Peace Day” announced the Manchester Guardian on 11 November 1919.





Impact of Death

- Two features of that first Remembrance Day are central to today's commemorations.
- These are the act of remembrance and the silence at the Cenotaph and the wearing of poppies.
- Alongside the official ceremonies in 1919, huge crowds gathered to lay wreaths at the newly erected Cenotaph.
- Many were wearing black, as they would have done at a funeral: this was a day of mourning, not celebration.





Impact of Death

- The Cenotaph was the place around which people united, and the activity that united them was the two minutes of silence.
- On the king's initiative people were asked to remain silent at 11 o'clock: to cease activity, to stand with bowed heads and to think of the fallen.
- To unite the whole country in a moment of contemplation required some organisation, especially given that times were not fully standardised throughout the UK.





Impact of Death

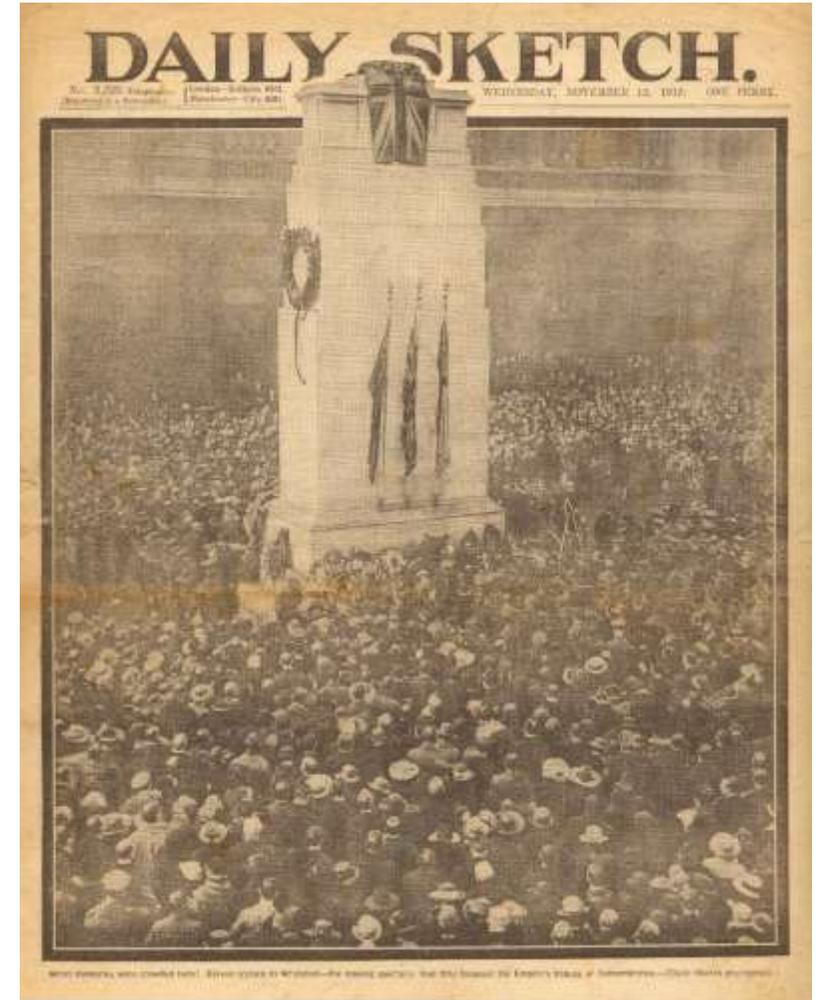
- The silence was announced by maroons or church bells – and it was universally observed.
- Everything and everyone stopped: buses, trains and factories halted; electricity supplies were cut off to stop the trams;
- Wherever possible even the ships of the Royal Navy were stopped.
- Workers in offices, hospitals, shops and banks stood still; schools became silent;
- Court proceedings came to a standstill and so did the stock exchange.





Impact of Death

- The minutiae of everyday life ceased completely in what The Times described as “a great awful silence”.
- There had been no instructions about where people should observe the silence – it was assumed that everyone would simply pause at their tasks.
- But most chose to go outdoors to stand silently in a public place.





Remembrance Day 1919





Impact of Death

- Other Remembrance Day traditions developed quickly. In November 1920 the 'Unknown Warrior' was buried in Westminster Abbey.
- The tomb contained the body of an unknown ordinary serviceman picked at random.
- It was laid in the abbey in the morning, and tens of thousands of people had walked past the grave by the end of the afternoon.
- Over a million people visited it in its first week.
- The tomb was designed to honour the ordinary serviceman and to provide emotional or spiritual relief for survivors.

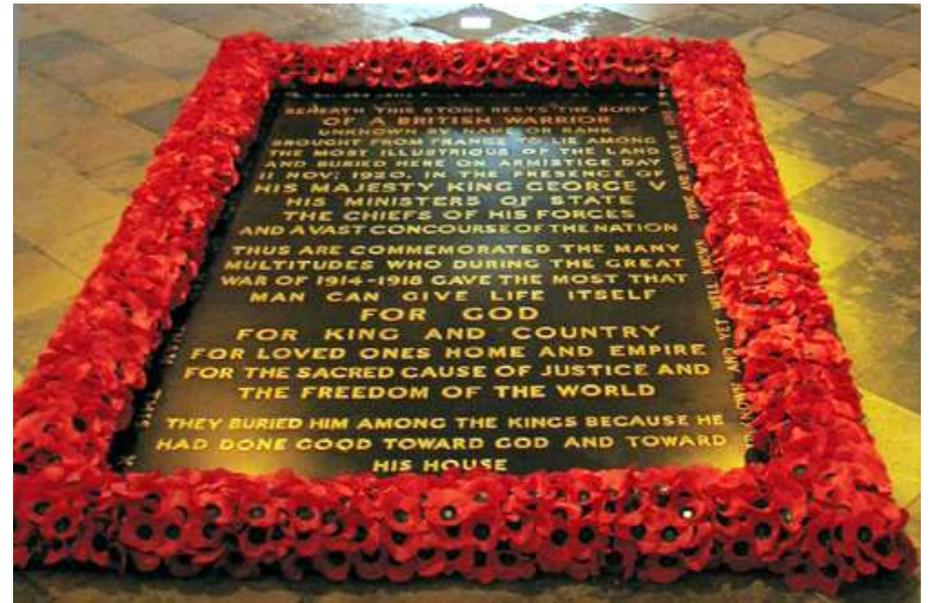


as Haig and Field Marshall John French, first Earl of Ypres, walked beside the coffin



Impact of Death

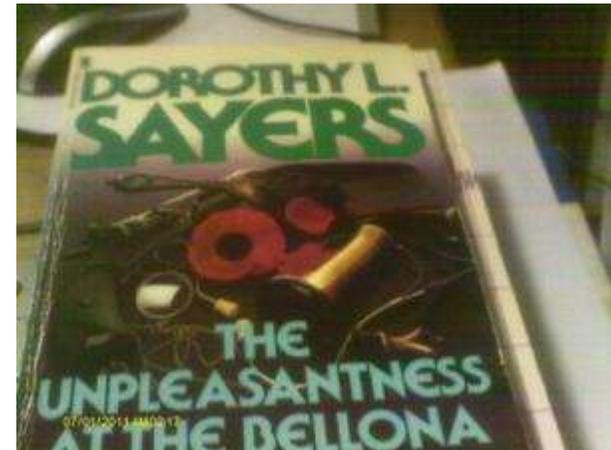
- The poppy campaign was more practical.
- From 1921 artificial poppies were sold to support the Earl Haig fund for ex-servicemen.
- Former soldiers made the poppies – and so ensured their own employment – and the profits supported ex-servicemen in need.
- Yet the poppy became symbolic too, and everyone wore one.





Impact of Death

- In fact, it was soon so ubiquitous that its absence was the clue to solving Dorothy L. Sayers' murder-mystery, *The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club* (1928):
- the victim could not have died as claimed because no respectable fellow would have left the house without a Flanders poppy on 11 November.





In Flanders Fields by John McCrae

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.





We shall keep the faith by Moina Michael

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.





Impact of Death

- Following the Armistice, the government gave each local authority the responsibility of developing suitable local memorials.
- Local war memorials were erected throughout the 1920s.
- At annual ceremonies the names of the dead were read out loud rather than just a silence.





Impact of Death

- Countless servicemen had died without family funerals and 100,000 of them had no marked grave.
- Local memorials functioned as family sites of mourning.
- People also visited these sites on the days that were crucial to their own war.
- November 11 was not the most significant day for everybody.
- Survivors remembered the day they first went over the top, the day their best friend died, or the last time they saw their husband.





Impact of Death

- In 1926, a competition was held in Liverpool to create a memorial using public funds.
- There were 257 entrants.
- The winning entry was by Lionel Budden.
- The cenotaph was unveiled at 11 am on 11 November 1930 by the 17th Earl of Derby.





Impact of Death

- The cenotaph consists of a rectangular block of Stancliffe stone, with bronze relief statues on the sides, standing on a platform of Yorkshire Silex stone.
- The rectangular block is 35 feet (10.7 m) long and 11 feet (3.4 m) high, the length of the bronze panels is 31 feet (9.4 m), and the platform is 61 feet (18.6 m) long and 15 feet (4.6 m) deep.
- It is orientated northeast–southwest, in parallel with St George's Hall.



Floral tributes at the newly unveiled cenotaph in 1930.



Impact of Death

- The bronze relief on the northwest face, opposite the hall, depicts a stream of marching troops in the uniforms of the various armed forces.
- Above the panel is an inscription reading:

AS UNKNOWN AND YET WELL
KNOWN AS DYING AND BEHOLD
WE LIVE
- and below, the inscription reads

OUT OF THE NORTH PARTS A
GREAT COMPANY AND A
MIGHTY ARMY





Impact of Death

- On the southeast face, facing Lime Street station, the panel depicts mourners laying flowers and wreaths on a Stone of Remembrance, with rows of graves in a military cemetery behind them.
- Above the panel the inscription reads
TO THE MEN OF LIVERPOOL
WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR
with an added inscription below
it reads AND ALL WHO HAVE
FALLEN IN CONFLICT SINCE.





Impact of Death

- Under the panel is an inscription reading
AND THE VICTORY THAT DAY
WAS TURNED INTO
MOURNING UNTO ALL THE
PEOPLE.
- On the shorter northeast and southwest faces are circular bronze shields with the coat of arms of Liverpool and festoons, and the dates of the two wars.





Impact of Death

- In Bootle a War Memorial Sub-Committee was established in 1920 to arrange for the design and erection of a memorial for the town.
- The borough council agreed to make a grant of £2,000 towards the cost, the difference to be made up by public subscriptions.
- A grant was unusual because at the time the whole cost of war memorials was usually met by public subscription.





Impact of Death

- Herman Cawthra was selected as sculptor.
- He worked on the design of the memorial with Hubert Ernest Bulmer, a member of the committee and art director for the borough.
- The memorial was unveiled on 15 October 1922 by Major James Burnie in the presence of a large crowd.
- In 1948 the names of those killed in the Second World War were added to the memorial





Impact of Death

- The memorial was built in stone from the Forest of Dean, and the figures are in bronze.
- The overall height of the memorial is about 7.3 metres (24 ft), and the figures standing on the base are about 2.1 metres (7 ft) high.
- The base of the monument stands on two circular steps, and has twelve sides divided by pilasters.
- Between the pilasters are bronze plaques inscribed with the names of the Bootle men who were killed in the World Wars.





Impact of Death

- Standing on the base is a triangular obelisk with concave sides, which carries the figure of a mother holding her child.
- On the base around the obelisk are three standing figures, a soldier, a sailor, and an airman.
- Between the figures are three bronze wreathes.
- An inscription on the monument reads
"In grateful memory of over a thousand men from Bootle who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War, 1914-1918".

