

# LibriVox

## First World War Centenary Prose Collection Vol. I

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### **01 [GERMAN] Extraausgabe der Wiener Zeitung zum Attentat in Sarajewo**

The original newspaper report of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, in a special edition of the Wiener Zeitung, June 28th 1914.

### **02 Chapters 3 & 4 of History of the World War by Francis A. March (1863 - 1926)**

Historian Frances A. March wrote "an authentic narrative of the world's greatest war" in 1918. In this selection, March addresses the political situation which led to the war, including the Balkan ferment, the state of the Russian autocracy, efforts to mediate a resolution after the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand at Sarajevo, and Germany's determination to pursue war to achieve its political and military ambitions.

### **03 Extract from letter written home by Rifleman C. H. Brazier, Queen's Westminsters, of Bishops Stortford**

Letter written from the Front about the Christmas Day truce, 1914, and published in the Hertfordshire Mercury on 9th January 1915. This letter was found and transcribed by Brian G. Lawrence, and is to be found, with others, on the [www.christmastruce.co.uk](http://www.christmastruce.co.uk) website.

### **04 Extract from letter written by Private Frederick W. Heath**

Written in the trenches by Private Frederick W. Heath and published on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1915 in the North Mail. This letter was found and transcribed by Marian Robson, and is to be found, with others, on the [www.christmastruce.co.uk](http://www.christmastruce.co.uk) website, where it is subtitled *That Christmas Armistice: A Plum Pudding Policy Which Might Have Ended The War.*

**05 [FRENCH] Avec une batterie de 75: Ma pièce, souvenirs d'un canonnier 1914 by Paul Lintier (1893 - 1916)**

The memoirs of a French gunner, written as a daily journal. This section tells of the retreat on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1914 in the north-east of France, and commences with an exhausting night march. The account contains an anguished account of civilian casualties, and an emotional chance meeting with the writer's brother.

**06 The Soul of a Nation by Arthur Foley Winnington-Ingram (1858 - 1946)**

The sermon preached by the the Right Hon. and Right Rev. Arthur F. Winnington-Ingram, D.D., Lord Bishop of London from the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral, July 25th, 1915.

**07 France at War: On the Frontier of Civilization by Rudyard Kipling (1868 - 1936)**

Kipling was not originally invited to work with the War Propaganda Bureau, but after the resignation of anti-war members of the Cabinet, he agreed to work with Asquith's government. This book is an account of his experiences on visits to the Western Front, 1915.

**08 [GERMAN] Die Weise von Liebe und Tod des Cornets Christoph Rilke by Rainer Maria Rilke (1875 - 1926)**

Rilke wrote this text in 1899, and if initially it was nearly ignored, the edition of 1912 was a bestseller. A very large number of German soldiers put this little book in their backpacks when they left their families to go to the battlefield. And if it is about the senselessness of the war, it is also about the glorification of a heroic death, and this may have warranted its adoption as the most read book on the front. This text was put to music by such composers as Frank Martin, Victor Ullmann and others.

**09 [FICTION] The War Mania of Mr. Jinks and Mr. Blinks by Stephen Leacock (1869 - 1944)**

A light-hearted account of two armchair generals, comfortably directing the war from their gentlemen's club.

**10 Liberty: a Statement of the British Case by Arnold Bennett (1867 - 1931)**

On 2nd September 1914, the War Propaganda Bureau invited 25 leading British authors to discuss ways of best promoting Britain's interests during the war. These authors published pamphlets and short books under a commercial imprint, and the activities of the WPB were not generally known until 1935. Bennett wrote this at the behest of the WPB in 1915 to explain the background to the war and gain the support of the British people. Unlike some of the WPB publications, it is relatively objective and unjingoistic.

**11 Notes and Chapter 1 Impressions of War Written at and Near the Front from *Paths of Glory* by Irvin S. Cobb (1876 - 1944)**

In 1893, at the age of 17, Cobb began writing for the Paducah (Kentucky) Daily News. His writing talent rapidly advanced his career as a journalist. In 1914 Cobb was in Europe working for The Saturday Evening Post, when he was assigned to cover the First World War. Because Cobb was in France (and Belgium) during this time, he had the unique perspective of reporting the war as a neutral, accompanied by the German military. This first chapter of the book is an account of a tiny Belgian village caught in the crossfire between French and German forces, and introduces the reader to Cobb's observations of the uncertainty, boredom, horror, madness, compassion, humor, and the many other experiences of war.

## **12 Excerpt from Edith Cavell: Her Life Story by Herbert Leeds (d.o.d. unknown)**

Edith Cavell (1865-1915) was a British nurse in charge of a hospital and nursing school in Brussels when the German army occupied the city. She stayed on, and eventually became closely connected with what would in the Second World War be called an "escape line" for British and Allied soldiers behind the enemy lines. Eventually the group was betrayed by a double agent, and she along with several others was tried and shot by the German military authorities. This was still early in the war, at a time when old ideas about the place of women, and the duty to protect them from the violence of war, were still strong; the (then neutral) American diplomats who sought to act as consular representatives for her reported also an air of secrecy, even deliberate deception by the authorities, about her trial and sentence; and the whole affair caused - and, it has to be said, was used to encourage - widespread outrage in Allied and neutral countries. Edith Cavell herself appears to have expected the eventual outcome, and met her end with much-admired courage and fortitude. She is particularly remembered for her words to her chaplain: "Patriotism is not enough - I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

## **13 [DUTCH] De elektrische grensafsluiting (uit het Rotterdamsch Nieuwsblad, 29<sup>th</sup> June 1915).**

In 1915 bouwden de Duitsers een draadversperring langs de hele grens tussen het bezette België en het neutrale Nederland, die onder dodelijke elektrische stroom werd gezet, om de vlucht van meer Belgen en Duitsers naar Nederland te belemmeren. De Draad, ook Dodendraad genoemd, kostte naar schatting vele honderden mensen het leven. Dit krantenbericht meldt de eerste slachtoffers.

*The electrical border-fence - in 1915, the Germans built a fence all along the border between occupied Belgium and the neutral Netherlands, through which they ran a deadly electrical current, to prevent more Belgians and Germans from fleeing to the Netherlands. This wire fence cost the lives of hundreds of people. This newspaper clipping reports on the first victims.*

## **14 Ten Lessons on Food Conservation: Lesson 1 by the United States Food Administration**

World War I significantly disrupted agricultural production in Europe. In 1917, the US Food Administration sought to acquaint Americans with the food shortage and to encourage them to take definite and immediate steps to support the war effort by reducing food consumption and waste.

## **15 [FICTION][GERMAN] Das Feuer: Kapitel 1 by Henri Barbusse (1873 - 1935), translated by Leo von Meyenburg (d.o.d. unknown)**

This is a chapter from a German translation of Henri Barbusse's novel *Le Feu: journal d'une escouade* (published 1916). Although fiction, it is based on Barbusse's experiences as a French soldier on the Western Front. It was the first novel to take an unflinching look at the everyday life and the plight of soldiers in modern war. This German translation was published in 1918.

## **16 Neutral Nations and the War by 1st Viscount Bryce (1838 - 1922)**

James Bryce's essay is reviewing the arguments made by General Von Bernhardi in his book *Germany and the Next War*. The book advocates for war and says war is a good thing for humanity. Bryce takes apart his argument that war is a good thing. Illustrating that even in violent societies, peacetime was valued and that progress does not just come from big states with big military power: the smaller states have just as much to contribute if not more.

## **17 The Conduct of the War by Sea by Winston S. Churchill (1874 – 1965)**

*N.B. Although Churchill died in 1965, this was a speech delivered to the UK House of Commons, and as such was subject to parliamentary copyright for 50 years only. It is therefore in the Public Domain in the UK.*

A speech delivered in the House of Commons by the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill on 15th February, 1915. It is a comprehensive statement of the state of British naval services and the related supply operations at this early point in the war, before the sinking of the liner Lusitania and the realisation that the German fleet, especially submarines, would not exclude merchant and civilian vessels from its attacks.

## **18 [DUTCH] Brieven uit den loopgraaf door Arthur Knaap (1893 - 1938)**

Gepubliceerd in De Nieuwe Gids, 1916). Arthur Knaap gaat in dienst van het Franse vreemdelingenlegioen uit zucht naar avontuur en uit liefde voor Frankrijk (en zijn Franse vriendin). Vanuit de loopgraven in Frankrijk schrijft hij brieven aan zijn ouders, broer en zus, en zijn vriendin.

*"Letters from the trench" by Arthur Knaap, a Dutch young man who joined the French Foreign Legion to look for adventure and from love for France (and his French girlfriend). From the French trenches, he writes letters to his parents, his siblings and his girlfriend. [Dutch]*

## **19 A glimpse of the British army by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859 - 1930)**

This pamphlet for the British War Propaganda Bureau forms part of *A Visit to the Three Fronts*, written after Conan Doyle had visited the battle line of each of the three Western allies, British, French and Italian, in the first half of 1916.

## **20 Scott's Official History of the American Negro: Negro Women in War Work by Alice Dunbar Nelson (1875 - 1935)**

When war against Germany was declared April 6, 1917, Negro Americans quickly recognized the fact that *it was not to be a white man's war, nor a black man's war, but a war of all the people living under the 'Stars and Stripes' for the preservation of human liberty throughout the world.* It is because of the immensely valuable contribution made by Negro soldiers, sailors, and civilians toward the winning of the great World War that this volume has been prepared, -- in order that there may be an authentic record, not only of the military exploits of this particular racial group of Americans, but of the diversified and valuable contributions made by them as patriotic civilians. (From the Preface)

## **21 Selections from the First Issue of *The Stars and Stripes* February 8, 1918 by American Expeditionary Forces**

*The Stars and Stripes* was an 8-page newspaper published in 71 weekly editions between February 1918 and June 1919, printed on presses borrowed from French newspapers, and delivered across the front by automobile or motorcycle. Its mission was to give the American soldiers stationed in France a newspaper of their own, containing the specific types of information relevant to them. In addition to informational articles about military matters, it also provided some humor, sports, essays on camp life, and cartoons. This recording includes a sampling of typical articles found in the first issue. Discontinued after 1919, the Stars and Stripes was revived during the Second World War, and has since then remained in continuous publication.

## **22 Somme Battle Stories: Close Quarters by Alec John Dawson (1872 - 1951)**

The book contains accounts from the Somme recorded by Capt. A. J. Dawson in 1916. This chapter consists of an account, in the words of a private, of the Battle of Pozières (23 July–7 August 1916), which was part of the Battle of the Somme.

## **23 War Letters of a Public-School Boy: In the Somme Battlefield by Henry Paul Mainwaring Jones (1896 - 1917)**

Letters home from Lieutenant Paul Jones, killed in action July 31st, 1917 after 27 months' service. In August, 1916, Lt. Jones was commanding an ammunition working-party located at an advanced railhead in the terrain of the Somme battles. These vivid letters were written in August and September, 1916.

## **24 Поза межами болю. Переднє слово (Poza mezhamy boliu. Perednye slovo) by Osyp Turianskiy (1880 - 1933)**

«Поза межами болю» Осипа Турянського - антивоєнна психологічна повість-поема з часів Першої світової війни. Вона вважається одним з кращих літературних творів, в яких змальовано Першу світову війну і викрито капіталістичний лад, що її породив. Ця повість-поема написана людиною, яка сама пережила межовий стан між життям та смертю. Турянський пише: «Для творчої праці замало самого таланту. Поет мусить пройти найглибше пекло людського буття й найвищі небесні вершини людського щастя. Тоді його слово буде хвилювати, захоплювати, піднімати людську душу.» [Поза межами болю, гл.3]

*"Poza mezhamy boliu" (Beyond the Limits of Pain) by Osyp Turianskiy is an anti-war psychological narrative poem of the First World War. It is considered as one of the best literary works which depicts the First World War and exposes capitalism that spawned it. This narrative poem is written by the man who himself survived the boundary between life and death. Turianskiy writes: 'For a creative work it is not enough to have a talent. A poet must go through the deepest hell of human being and the highest summits of human happiness. Then his word will excite, delight and raise the human soul.'* [Beyond the Limits of Pain, ch. 3]

## **25 Wounded - How It Feels To Be Shot, from And They Thought We Wouldn't Fight by Floyd Gibbons (1887 - 1939)**

Gibbons was a *Chicago Tribune* reporter serving as a war correspondent with the American Expeditionary Force in France. *And They Thought We Wouldn't Fight*, published in 1918, collects his wartime experiences in an unadorned journalistic style. The chapter selected for this collection describes how Gibbons was shot in the face, losing his left eye, while covering the Battle of Belleau Wood, an event he recounts with a calm professional detachment and occasional wry humor. Gibbons went on after the war to become one of early radio's first news commentators, familiar for his snappy style of rapid delivery.

## **26 [DUTCH] Oorlogstijd door Willem Treub (1858-1931)**

Gepubliceerd in 1917, is geschreven , die in de eerste jaren van de Eerste Wereldoorlog werkte als minister van Handel, Nijverheid en Landbouw, en later ook minister van Financien. In 1916 trad hij na een politiek conflict af als minister, en schreef hij een boek over zijn herinneringen aan de eerste jaren van de oorlog. Hoofdstuk 1 beschrijft onder andere de beslissing tot mobilisatie, de manier waarop de neutraliteit van Nederland bewaakt moest worden (waarbij o.a. wordt beschreven hoe er beslissingen genomen moesten worden over het nieuwe fenomeen van oorlogsvliegtuigen), en hoe die neutraliteit in gevaar kon worden gebracht.

*Chapter 1 from "Times of War" by Willem Treub (1858-1931), Dutch minister for Trade, and later also minister of Finances. After having to step down due to a political conflict in 1916, he wrote a book about his memories of the first years of the War.*

*Chapter 1 includes descriptions of the decision for national mobilisation early on, and the measures that needed to be taken to protect the position of the Netherlands as a neutral country in the War. [Dutch]*

### **27 Young Girls Fighting on the Russian Front from Current History, May 1916**

This article was first printed in the Russian Journal *Novoe Vremya*, then in the London Times, and finally in *Current History* (a magazine of The New York Times), pp. 365–67. This particular story about Zoya Smirnow and her teenage comrades also has a Wikipedia article with more information: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoya\\_Smirnow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zoya_Smirnow)

### **28 Finished with the War: A Soldier's Declaration by Siegfried Sassoon (1886 - 1967)**

A statement to Sassoon's commanding officer declining to return to duty. It was distributed to the press and read to the British House of Commons on July 30. Sassoon's friend and fellow-officer Robert Graves persuaded the authorities that he was mentally ill, and unfit to face a court-martial. He was instead treated in hospital for shell-shock.

### **29 Outside the Glass Doors, Chapter 1 of A Diary Without Dates by Enid Bagnold (1889 - 1981)**

In her first book, *A Diary Without Dates*, published in 1918, Enid Bagnold 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*.

### **30 Chapter 10 of Books in the War, the Romance of Library War Service by Theodore Wesley Koch (1871 - 1941)**

This chapter describes the British War Library, a service set up by volunteers (later in conjunction with the Red Cross and Order of St. John) to supply reading material of all sorts initially to the wounded in hospitals, and soon also to men on active service both in ships and at the front, to medical staff and coastguards. The service was greatly appreciated, and the demand from all theatres of war was enormous, but always supplied. In total, the British War Library distributed over 6 million books and magazines.

### **31 Extract from Journal of A Disappointed Man by W. N. P. Barbellion (1889 - 1919)**

Wilhelm Nero Pilate Barbellion was the nom-de-plume of Bruce Frederick Cummings. He chose the first names as the most wretched men ever to have lived. Rejected by the army as unfit, he subsequently discovered that he was suffering from multiple sclerosis. The "pink form" he receives refers to the National Registration Act of 1915 which provided for a register of all men and women between 15 and 65. The forms of men of military age (19 - 41) were to be copied onto pink forms, and were later used for conscription.

### **32 [FICTION] A War Wedding Chapter 18 of Rilla of Ingleside by Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874 - 1942)**

A story about Anne Shirley's youngest daughter, 17-year-old Rilla. During WWI she helps her friend Miranda secretly marry her sweetheart Private Joe Milgrave on his last leave. Miranda's father who, it is suspected, may have German sympathies, refuses to

let them marry, so Rilla takes action and organizes a wedding while Miranda's father is away. After Miranda has bid Joe goodbye, she states: "If Joe can face the Huns I guess I can face father. A soldier's wife can't be a coward."

### **33 Scouting from the Skies, Chapter 8 of Aeroplanes and Dirigibles of War by Frederick A. Talbot (1880 – d.o.d. unknown)**

Talbot was the author of numerous magazine articles and books of popular science and technology, writing on subjects as various as cinematography, rail-roads, oil drilling, and motorcars. *Aeroplanes and Dirigibles of War*, published in 1915, was one of the earliest books to take a comprehensive look at how the new airships were being used in the First World War. Written at a time when the military use of airships was still developing day by day, much uncertainty still prevailed about the role of these machines in warfare. In the selected Chapter, "Scouting From the Skies", Talbot discusses the area in which the airplane had already at that point proven most useful, that of reconnaissance.

### **34 [DUTCH] Het vluchtoord te Bergen op Zoom (artikel uit het geïllustreerde maandschrift „Op de Hoogte”, van april 1915)**

Beschrijving van het vluchtelingenkamp in Bergen op Zoom, waar sinds eind 1914 duizenden Belgische vluchtelingen werden opgevangen.

*Refugee camp Bergen op Zoom. Journalistic article from a monthly journal describing the refugee camp in Bergen op Zoom, which had housed thousands of Belgian refugees since the end of 1914.*

### **35 The Air Raids, Part 1**

### **36 The Air Raids, Part 2 by Arthur J. Crowhurst (1867 - 1928)**

### **from *Folkestone During the War* ed. Rev. John Charles Carlile (1861 - 1941)**

Folkestone is less than 30 miles from the European mainland and was the main point of departure for troops going to the Front. A large number of Canadian troops were also based in the area. The article describes the air raids suffered by this coastal town during the First World War, including one of the first and most lethal aeroplane bombings of mainland Britain, on May 25th 1917.

### **37 The Battle of Jutland by John Buchan (1875 – 1940)**

This pamphlet "published by authority" was a piece of British propaganda. Buchan, in practice, ran the Department of Information, the successor organisation to the War Propaganda Bureau set up in 1914, when Charles Masterman had recruited Buchan, asking him to organise the publication of a history of the war in the form of a monthly magazine.

### **38 Excerpt from *Sixteen Months in Four German Prisons* narrated by Henry C. Mahoney (d.o.d. unknown) and chronicled by Frederick A. Talbot (1880 – d.o.d. unknown)**

Whilst traveling through Germany to begin a scientific project in Russia, Henry Mahoney was arrested by the Germans as a spy. Following his escape, he chronicled his experiences as a prisoner of war. In this excerpt, Mahoney tells of the conditions at Sennelager, called the Black Hole of Germany, of the treatment received by British Tommies and a group of elderly priests at the hands of their German captors.

### **39 Feeding an Army by Albert Kinross (1870 – 1929) from the *Atlantic Monthly*, vol. 122, October 1918**

Though in his 40s at the commencement of the war, Albert Kinross served as an army Captain in France and the Middle East. This is his account of the logistics of feeding and supplying a modern army in wartime.

**40 Night-Work in a Munition Factory by Winifred Brooke Irvine (1877 – 1949) from the *Atlantic Monthly*, vol. 122, July 1918**

Winifred Brooke Irvine was one of the many women who worked in the munition factories during the First World War. From December 1916 to June 1917, she worked in a shell factory and then in a factory manufacturing time fuses in Toronto, Canada. Irvine describes both the weariness of the factory routine and the satisfaction simultaneously felt by women who proved that they could handle machines and tools as well as the men could do. She shares her shock when one woman is killed in an accident, her boredom at the monotony, and her delight when she masters the art of setting the tools on her own lathe. Compelled at last to stop working due to poor health, she remained proud of having "done her bit" for the war effort.

**41 Warfare under Water by Rudyard Kipling (1868 – 1936) from *Pen Pictures of British Battles***

In a chapter excerpted from his book, *Sea Warfare*, Rudyard Kipling paints four scenes of submarine warfare and the bravery of British submariners.

**42 [DUTCH] De Belgen in Holland, 1914-1917 door Gustave Jaspaers (d.o.d. unknown)**

Beschrijving van de opvang van Belgische vluchtelingen in Nederland door een Belg - die naast het tonen van veel dankbaarheid voor de gastvrijheid van de Nederlanders ook eerlijk schrijft over de gevoelens tussen de Nederlanders en Belgen over en weer, die niet altijd gunstig waren, en de fricties die de opvang met zich mee bracht. "Belgians in Holland, 1914-1917" by Gustave Jaspaers, himself from Belgium. Description of the welcome that the thousands of Belgian refugees received in the Netherlands - apart from gratitude for the good things, he also writes about the feelings between the Dutch and the Belgians, which were not always positive, and the frictions caused by the straightened circumstances of the War.

**43 Excerpt from 'The Last Ride' from *Fanny Goes to War* by 'Pat' Beauchamp (1892 – 1972)**

This brave woman served in France in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry as an ambulance driver until she lost a leg in a lorry crash while she was transporting stretchers. The reading is of part of Chapter 16, which describes the crash and her subsequent experiences. It didn't stop her, however – she returned to France in 1918 after purchasing her own prosthetics, which were only supplied to servicemen and not to nurses.

**44 Early Care of Gunshot Wounds of the Jaws and Surrounding Soft Parts, from *Abstracts of War Surgery* by United States Surgeon-General's Office**

Injuries to the jaw bone and soft tissues of the face required special splinting skills which many general surgeons did not possess, yet early proper fixation of these injuries was one of the most important points of the treatment. Dentists on the other hand were trained to fix the bones, but not to care for wounded tissues. The frequency and severity of facial injuries during World War I made it imperative that doctors providing early care at evacuation and base hospitals be trained to bridge this "no man's land" between surgery and dentistry so that better results could be achieved in later reconstructive treatments. This article was prepared by the Subsection of Plastic and Oral Surgery of the Surgeon General's office as a basis for lectures to be given in Medical Officers' Training Camps during WWI.



**45 Torpedoed by Albert Kinross (1870 – 1929) from the *Atlantic Monthly*, vol. 120, December 1917**

Albert Kinross's eye-witness account of the 1917 sinking of HMT *Transylvania*. The first torpedo hit in the engine room, disabling the ship and leaving her a stationary target for a second torpedo. Some 3400 were aboard, including 66 Red Cross nurses. Over 400 men died, but all the nurses and many of the men were saved by Italian and Japanese ships and taken to safety at Savona in Italy, where they were received with great kindness by the people.

**46 Chapter 9 Viewing a Battle from a Balloon from *Paths of Glory* by Irvin S. Cobb (1876 - 1944)**

This chapter of Cobb's book is unique to this particular war. It brings so much of the old and the new into play: the use of manpower and horsepower, the field telephone, the observation balloon, and the airplane. Cobb's descriptions make this chapter particularly exciting, and his observations make *Paths of Glory* a unique book, well worth reading.

**47 [FICTION] No Man's Land: A Point of Detail by Sapper (1888 - 1937)**

This is a spy/detective story of the trenches by Sapper, H. H. McNeile, who for his writing drew on his experiences in the British Expeditionary Force during the First World War, serving with a number of Royal Engineer units on the Western Front.

**48 The War in Africa and the Far East, Chapter 3, The Pacific Colonies and The Capture of Kiao-Chau by Herbert Charles O'Neill (1879 - 1953)**

O'Neill was a British journalist who wrote military books in both World Wars under the pseudonym "Strategicus". German colonies in the Pacific, though not very extensive, were extremely important links in the German scheme of world-policy. This chapter tells how Allied forces fought for control of German colonial possessions in the Pacific Ocean and China.

**49 [GERMAN] Kriegstagebuch by Gerrit Engelke (1890 – 1918)**

Although better known for his poetry, Engelke here describes in prose the horror of life in the trenches. It is an assault on all the senses in its descriptive power.

**50 The Children Of Our Dead from *The Soul of the Soldier: Sketches from the Western Battle Front* by Thomas Tiplady (1882-1967)**

Rev. Tiplady was a chaplain with the British Expeditionary Forces in France for eighteen months during the Great War. "It is a padre's privilege and duty to be the voice with which, in public worship, the soldiers speak to God; and through which their last thoughts are borne to their friends at home. He is their voice both when they are sick or wounded, and when they lie silent in the grave." He did not write of military strategy, and very little of the gruesomeness of war, but took pains to record the small things we can all relate to: crisp, white sheets; a child pulling on her father's sleeve; roses blooming in a garden. In this piece, he reflects on the debt owed by a nation to the children destined to grow up fatherless.

**51 The Moonlight Battle for Baghdad by Edmund Candler (1874 - 1926) from *Pen Pictures of British Battles***

Prior to the war, the Ottoman Empire maintained control in Mesopotamia (modern Iraq) through local proxy rulers. Shortly after the European war began, the British sent forces to protect their oil interests in Abadan. The British occupied Basra in 1914 and continued to fight the Ottomans in the region over the next three years, with mixed success. By March 1917, the British were on the outskirts of Baghdad, where the Governor of Baghdad province, Halil Kut (Khalil Pasha), tried to stop them on the

Diyala river. The British Indian Army played a significant role in the eventual capture of Baghdad. The British continued their offensive until 30 October 1918 when Khalil Pasha and the Ottoman Army surrendered and an armistice was signed requiring both parties were to accept their then current positions. Despite this, the British troops continued to advance and the war in Mesopotamia finally ended on 14 November 1918 (15 days after the Armistice), when the British occupied Mosul in the face of Turkish protests, leaving the ownership of the Mosul Province and its rich oil fields an international issue.

### **52 Selected Letters from The American Spirit by Briggs Kilburn Adams (1893 - 1918)**

Adams was a young man whose birth country was France but whose formative years and early adult life were spent in America. He was artistically talented both musically and in a literary sense. In the summer of 1916, during a break from College, Briggs travelled to serve as a volunteer Ambulance driver in France. In many ways, the Great War was to have a profound impact on the young and idealistic Adams.

Although to the forefront of his thoughts was the war and the preparation for his "work", his great love of home and family caused him to pen what eventually became a collection of moving and descriptive letters. The letters chronicle, in a vivid and illuminating way, his progress in training as a military aviator, his feelings as he acquired mastery of the skies as a Lieutenant of the Royal Flying Corps., and his philosophical thoughts on handling the enormity of the "work" he felt compelled to do.

### **53 [FRENCH] Alphabet de la grande guerre, 1914-1916 pour les enfants de nos soldats by André Hellé (1871 - 1945)**

A charmingly illustrated alphabet explaining the war to French children in simple language. It is a gentle introduction to the subject for young children, rather than an exposure to the reality of war.

### **54 Chapter 1 of Eighteen Months in the War Zone by Kate John Finzi (d.o.d. unknown)**

Miss Finzi gives in a plain, unvarnished style a terrible and graphic picture of the horrors of war. This is the record – a most pathetic and interesting record – of what happened at the base hospitals at Boulogne, where tens of thousands of wounded, maimed and mutilated incessantly arrived, to be passed on to England, or to linger there till death came as a happy release from their sufferings. (From the Introduction)

### **55 The War as Art Critic by Lee Simonson (1888 - 1967)**

Simonson, the American theatre set designer, not only touches on the development of camouflage, but also compares the war art of independent progressive artists with lithographers working to a realist brief. While not wholly focused on the current war, the article is illustrated with examples of the work of British and French First World War artists, including C. R. W. Nevinson, whose early paintings used futurist techniques such as lines of force to create a sense of power and space. See also *Modern War: Paintings by C. R. W. Nevinson* at <https://archive.org/details/cu31924015182938>. The author predicts that this kind of futurist art will "tell the ultimate story of this war".