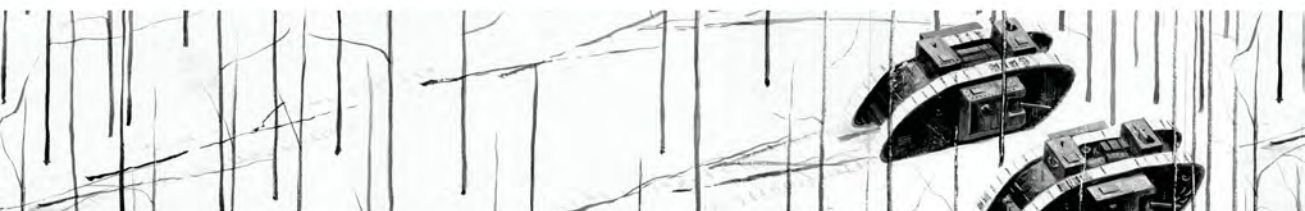
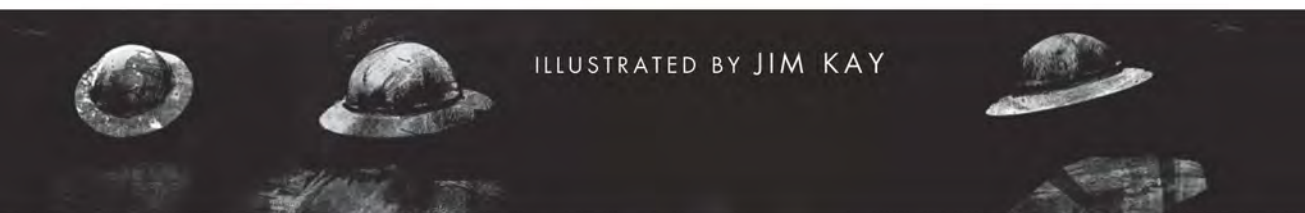


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TIMOTHÉE DE FOMBELLE • ADÈLE GERAS • A. L. KENNEDY • MICHAEL MORPURGO
MARCUS SEDGWICK • TANYA LEE STONE • SHEENA WILKINSON



THE GREAT WAR

STORIES INSPIRED BY ITEMS FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR



ILLUSTRATED BY JIM KAY

THE GREAT WAR

STORIES INSPIRED BY ITEMS
FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR

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CANDLEWICK PRESS

The War to End All Wars

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World War I, known at the time as the Great War, was the most destructive conflict the world had ever seen. Sixteen million people lost their lives, twenty million were wounded, and millions more were left homeless and starving.

What started as a small conflict in the Balkans quickly escalated into the first truly global war. At first the leaders of the nations involved thought it would be over quickly, but the fighting dragged on for four long, bloody years, from August 1914 until an armistice went into effect at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918.

The stories in this collection are inspired by objects from this terrible conflict. Some, like the Brodie helmet, were used in the fighting. Others, like the war-time butter dish, belonged to those left behind at home. Each story gives us a glimpse into the millions of lives that were changed by the war. Each object brings home the reality of a war that is now fading from living memory—a war many hoped and believed would be a war to end all wars.

The page is decorated with several abstract, geometric shapes, primarily triangles and trapezoids, scattered around the text. These shapes have a dark, mottled, and metallic texture, resembling rusted metal or old parchment. They are positioned in the corners and along the sides of the page, creating a layered, collage-like effect.

ABOUT THE ITEMS

The objects that inspired the stories in this collection are tangible reminders of the war and the individuals behind the statistics. Some, such as the compass and the writing case, can still be used. From their appearance, it is hard to believe that they were made during a war that began a hundred years ago.

Brodie Helmet

“Our Jacko”

Michael Morpurgo

In the first year of the war, troops were not provided with steel hats, resulting in a huge number of lethal head wounds. The French army introduced steel helmets in 1915, and Englishman



John Leopold Brodie designed the Brodie helmet in the same year. The helmet was officially known as *Helmet, steel, Mark I* in Britain and the M1917 helmet in the United States. Colloquially, it was called the Tommy helmet, tin hat, or doughboy helmet. The German army called it the *Salatschüssel* (salad bowl). The helmet pictured above was worn by a soldier from the 1st Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, when the battalion lost 486 men.

Compass

“Another Kind of Missing”

A. L. Kennedy

By the end of the war, weapons and military equipment were the most sophisticated they had ever been, but at first the sheer number of soldiers joining up meant there were serious shortages of weapons, uniforms, and equipment. Sometimes there weren't enough guns for soldiers to train with, so they often used dummy rifles made of wood. Soldiers had to provide some pieces of equipment themselves—for instance, all officers were expected to carry a compass. Pictured here is a 1916

Verners Pattern VII compass, which once belonged to Lieutenant C. Birdwood of 3rd Battalion, Devon Regiment.



Nose of a Zeppelin bomb

“Don’t Call It Glory”

Marcus Sedgwick



In 1914, planes had only existed for only ten years and air bombing raids seemed more like science fiction than reality. In 1915, Germany launched a fleet of zeppelin airships to drop fire bombs on London. They hovered only a few hundred meters over the city, but it seemed impossible to shoot them down; planes didn't move quickly enough, and bullets caused hardly any damage. In 1917, after two years of zeppelin raids, new bullets were invented that ignited the gas inside the zeppelins, destroying them, and the threat from zeppelins was effectively over. Pictured above is the nose cap from a zeppelin bomb that fell on Streatham, England, on September 24, 1916, killing a donkey.

Recruitment Poster

“The Country You Called Home”

John Boyne

At the start of the war, propaganda was still fairly crude, but as the war progressed, posters and other propaganda became more sophisticated. Many recruitment drives encouraged men to sign up with their friends, promising that those who “joined together should serve together” in “pals battalions.” Recruitment drives for these battalions often appealed to local and ethnic identities, as this 1914 poster shows. Four Tyneside Irish battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers were raised by this recruitment drive.



Princess Mary's Gift Fund Box

"When They Were Needed Most"

Tracy Chevalier

In 1914, seventeen-year-old Princess Mary set up a fund to provide those serving at the front or in the navy with Christmas gifts. Over £162,500 was raised to make Princess Mary's Gift Fund boxes. Most tins were for smokers and contained cigarettes.



Nonsmokers received candy and a writing case. All the tins included a Christmas card and a photograph of Princess Mary. At Christmas there was an unofficial truce, and Germans and Allied troops met in no-man's-land to play soccer and exchange gifts, including items from the boxes.

Soldier's Writing Case

"A World That Has No War in It"

David Almond

By 1918, the Army Postal Service employed 4,000 soldiers who made daily deliveries of morale-boosting letters to those serving on the front lines. Most soldiers wrote home, as well, though their letters were censored so that they did not give away official secrets, and the soldiers themselves often decided to conceal the realities of life in the trenches from their families. The writing case pictured below belonged to Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Heneker. He died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, July 1, 1916, while commanding the 21st Northumberland Fusiliers.



Sheet Music

“A Harlem Hellfighter and His Horn”

Tanya Lee Stone

When the United States declared war on Germany in 1917, many African Americans rushed to join up. Black men served in separate army regiments from their white counterparts and weren't allowed to join the Marines. One of the most famous African-American regiments was the 369th Infantry Regiment, known as the Harlem Hellfighters. The regiment's band was directed by James Reese Europe, an influential band leader who helped open up music as a career to African Americans. The band traveled across France, entertaining American, British, and French troops and starting a craze for ragtime music in Europe. When the regiment returned home to the United States, they were given a heroes' welcome. Pictured here is the sheet music for two of the Harlem Hellfighters' most popular songs.



War-Time Butter Dish

“Maud’s Story”

Adèle Geras

The First World War led to food shortages in all the nations involved. Food production fell, and naval blockades and submarine warfare affected food imports. In Russia, Turkey, and Austria, there was widespread starvation and malnutrition, but France, Italy, and Britain introduced successful rationing systems. This British butter dish bears a message from the prime minister, encouraging people to be economical with food. The back reads: “The War Time Butter Dish for a family of ten. Made by the girls of Staffordshire during the winter of 1917 when the boys were in the trenches fighting for liberty and civilization.”





Victoria Cross

“Captain Rosalie”

Timothée de Fombelle

The Victoria Cross is the highest award for bravery for British and Commonwealth servicemen. Of 1,357 Crosses that have been awarded, 634 were given during World War I. Pictured here is the Victoria Cross awarded to Boy, 1st Class, John Travers Cornwell for his actions in the Battle of Jutland on May 31, 1916. His ship was badly damaged by German gunfire, and every member of his gun crew was killed or wounded. Cornwell was hit in the chest by a shell fragment but stayed at his post, awaiting orders, until the ship HMS *Chester* was disengaged from the action. He died two days after the battle, on June 2, 1916, at age sixteen.

School Magazines

“Each Slow Dusk”

Sheena Wilkinson

School magazines published during the World War I depicted, among rugby and hockey reports and news of exam success, the involvement of former students and teachers in the war. They often included excerpts of letters from the front and the obituaries of those who had lost their lives in the fighting. Pictured below is a collection of magazines published by Methodist College Belfast, from 1914 to 1919. In 1914, the mood was enthusiastic and patriotic; by 1916, the magazines were dominated by news of the dead and injured; and in 1919 the war wasn't mentioned at all.



French Toy Soldier

“Little Wars”

Ursula Dubosarsky

In the years leading up to World War I, toy soldiers became more and more popular as they became cheaper to produce. The toys appealed to adults as well as children, and in Britain, H. G. Wells published a popular set of war-game rules under the title *Little Wars*. The popularity of these toys may partly explain the enthusiasm for war when it broke out in 1914, and the number of men who so willingly volunteered to fight. This 1917 model of a French infantryman, or *poilu*, was sold in Paris for 70 francs. The soldier is dressed in the “horizon-blue” uniform of the French army.



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Opposite page: **FORD MODEL T FIELD AMBULANCE**
The first motorized ambulances were used during World War I. Thousands of men and women volunteered as ambulance drivers with the Red Cross, the American Field Service, and other organizations. Famous ambulance drivers include the animator Walt Disney, writers Ernest Hemingway and Somerset Maugham, and the composer Maurice Ravel.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

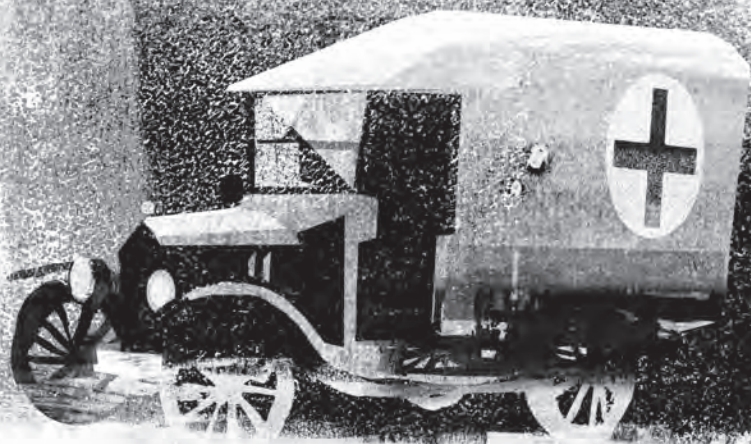


Photo by Sara Jane Palmer



DAVID ALMOND worked as a teacher before becoming a full-time writer. His books for children include *Skellig*, *My Name is Mina*, *The Boy Who Swam with Piranhas*, and *Mouse Bird Snake Wolf*. He has won numerous awards for his work, including the Hans Christian Andersen Award, a Carnegie Medal, two Whitbread Children's Book Awards, and a Michael L. Printz Award. He lives in northern England with his family.

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JOHN BOYNE is the author of eight novels for adults and four for young readers, including *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* and *Stay Where You Are and Then Leave*, both works of wartime fiction. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* has sold more than five million copies worldwide and was made into an award-winning film. John Boyne's work is published in more than 45 languages. He lives in Dublin, Ireland.



Photo by Rich Gilligan

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TRACY CHEVALIER is the author of seven novels, most recently *The Last Runaway*. She is best known for the international bestseller *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, which has sold more than five million copies, been translated into thirty-nine languages, and been made into a film. She grew up in Washington, D.C., and in 1984 moved to London, where she lives with her husband and son. She is a Fellow of Britain's Royal Society of Literature.



URSULA DUBOSARSKY is the author of more than thirty books for children. She has won several Australian book prizes, including the NSW, Victorian, South Australian, and Queensland Premier's literary awards. Her latest novels for young adults are *The Red Shoe*, set during a 1954 Australian spy scandal, and *The Golden Day*, set in a girls' school in 1967. She lives in Sydney, Australia with her family.

.....

TIMOTHÉE DE FOMBELLE is a popular French playwright and has achieved international success as a fiction author with *Toby Alone*, *Toby and the Secrets of the Tree*, and *Vango: Between Sky and Earth*. He lives in Paris, with his family.



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ADÈLE GERAS was born in Jerusalem and lived in Cyprus, Nigeria, and North Borneo as a child. She has written more than ninety books for children and young adults, including *Happy Ever After*, *Ithaka*, *A Thousand Yards of Sea*, and *Troy*, which was short-listed for the Whitbread Children's Book Award and the Carnegie Medal. She has also written four novels for adults. She lives in Cambridge, England.



JIM KAY worked in the archives of Tate Britain and the Royal Botanic Gardens before becoming a full-time illustrator. He received a Kate Greenaway Medal for his illustrations of Patrick Ness's *A Monster Calls*, and he was chosen by J. K. Rowling to illustrate the full-color editions of the Harry Potter series. He lives in Northamptonshire, England.

.....

A. L. KENNEDY is the author of six novels, three works of nonfiction, and five short-story collections, including *All the Rage*. Her novel *Day* was named a Costa Book of the Year, and she has twice been selected as one of *Granta*'s Best of Young British Novelists. She is a Fellow of Britain's Royal Society of Arts and Royal Society of Literature. She is also a dramatist and writes a blog with the *Guardian*. She lives in London.



Photo by Campbell Mitchell

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MICHAEL MORPURGO has written more than a hundred books, including *Meeting Cezanne*, *The Mozart Question*, and *I Believe in Unicorns*. His novel *War Horse* has been adapted into an award-winning play and an acclaimed film. From 2003 to 2005, he was the British Children's Laureate, and in 2006 he was awarded an Order of the British Empire. Michael Morpurgo lives on a farm in Devon, England.



MARCUS SEDGWICK established himself as an admired writer of YA fiction alongside a career in publishing; he now writes full-time. He is the author of *Midwinterblood*, which received a Michael L. Printz Award; *Revolver*, which received a Printz Honor; and other acclaimed titles for young adults; as well as his recent first thriller for adults, *A Love Like Blood*. He divides his time between a village near Cambridge, England, and the French Alps.

.....

TANYA LEE STONE was an editor of children's nonfiction for many years before becoming a full-time writer. Her books include the young adult novel *A Bad Boy Can Be Good for a Girl*; the picture books *Elizabeth Leads the Way* and *Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?*; and the narrative nonfiction titles *Almost Astronauts*, which received a Sibert Medal, and *Courage Has No Color*, which received an NAACP Image Award. She lives in Vermont.

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Photo by Cathy Bennett



SHEENA WILKINSON has been established as an acclaimed writer for young people since the publication of her multi-award-winning debut novel *Taking Flight*, which was followed by a sequel, *Grounded*, named the Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year. Her most recent novel, *Too Many Ponies*, is for younger readers. She lives in rural Northern Ireland with a neurotic cat and an ever-increasing book collection.




**They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.**

— Robert Laurence Binyon, "For the Fallen"

The Great War: Stories Inspired by Items from the First World War

Various Contributors
illustrated by Jim Kay

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