

FIRST WORLD WAR

Max the mouse continues his time-travelling adventures through British history...

Hello readers! It's 1914 and you join me as I enlist for the army for the FIRST WORLD WAR!

LONDON RECRUITMENT OFFICES. ARMY AND SPECIAL RESERVISTS

On the 28th June 1914, Archduke Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated, triggering an escalation of war between old enemies in Europe. Britain, for their part, went to help France and Belgium against Germany.

To begin with, men joined the British Army willingly! But the government soon realised they needed more men and forced them to join up by law (conscription)

BOOM!

BOOM!

Wait, some of you actually WANTED to come here?!

The First World War also witnessed the first invasion of Britain by air. German airships, called Zeppelins, bombed the British coastline, targeting seaside towns.

O! Mind my ice cream!

The British Prime minister, Lloyd George, realised that both the home front and the war front were very important to each other and he worked hard to involve all of society in helping with the war effort. It was a great success!

I don't want anyone to feel left out!

How very kind!

Women weren't allowed to join the army, so their roles at home became very important. They already carried the burden of caring for families and the home and were now asked to do 'their bit'!

WAAH!!

Call this a 'bit'?!

They were employed in weapon factories, offices shops and transport, carrying out work men normally did. They even shocked the men by wearing trousers!

We wear the trousers now!

Gasp!

Children also played a vital role on the home front. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides delivered milk, made bandages and grew vegetables!

Dig, dig dig!

Other tasks included knitting socks and scarves for soldiers in winter and collecting conkers which could be turned into explosives!

I'm not sure I want to play this game anymore.

Animals also helped in the war! Pigeons carried messages, horses pulled guns and ambulances and dogs were used for catching rats.

I'm a mouse! I'm a mouse!

In November 1918 the war was finally over, but millions had lost their lives. The First World War had meant to be the 'War to end all Wars'.

But, that couldn't have been further from the truth.....