EXPLORE THE REAL HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE’S WAR

TRENCH JOURNALS AND UNIT MAGAZINES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

INTRODUCING AN UNPARALLELED COLLECTION OF RARE PRIMARY SOURCES — WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AND FOR THE TROOPS

“[The purpose of this magazine is] to show the good folk at home what we are thinking and doing ... [for] we can’t tell them much in our letters and one leave a year.”

Editorial from The Dagger, or London in the Line (November 1918), trench journal of the 56th London Division, British Army
FROM THE HOLDINGS OF MAJOR LIBRARIES AND RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

To create the largest digitized collection of trench journals available, ProQuest is working with world renowned archives, including those of the Imperial War Museums and the British Library. This exceptional collection provides invaluable insights into the experience of those serving in the First World War by giving you access to more than 1,500 unit magazines published between 1914 and the end of 1919.

A LIBRARY OF “LOST VOICES” — AN ESSENTIAL COUNTERPOINT

These unique, though little-known, magazines provide an essential counterpoint to the official histories of the First World War. Indeed, the unit magazines constitute a library of “lost voices” from the early 20th century, touching all aspects of life and culture in the pre-1919 period. A vital source for cross-disciplinary research beyond social and military history, the full-image pages include poems, stories, songs, sketches, jokes, plays, articles, and even ads.

EXPLORE THE COMMON SOLDIER’S EXPERIENCE

Produced, mostly unofficially, by every type of unit engaged in the war, the publications were principally distributed only to the members of the unit. The magazines were written and illustrated by the soldiers serving in a huge variety of units of all combatant nations including America, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Australia, and New Zealand. Although the majority of journals that have survived originate from units based on the Western Front in France and Belgium there are also magazines from units serving on the Eastern Front, in Gallipoli, Palestine, Egypt, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, Britain, and America.

DIGITIZED AND INDEXED FOR A RICH DISCOVERY EXPERIENCE

The magazines are scanned cover-to-cover, in full color or grayscale, with granular indexing of all articles, specialist indexing of publications, and full-text searching. Upon completion, ProQuest seeks to produce a resource of around 35,000 individual journal issues amounting to roughly 500,000 pages.
“These anecdotes recounted over and over again in dug-outs and during the tedious hours of rest in camp should be saved from oblivion [...] It is the duty of our comrades of all ranks to record their experiences for their brother soldiers and to history.”

— from *Poil et Plume* (May 1916), magazine of the French 81st Infantry Regiment

**READ MAGAZINES FROM EVERY TYPE OF UNIT**

- **Infantry:** Regimental magazines from British, American, Dominion, French, and German units training at home and based abroad, including *The Dead Horse Corner Gazette*, *The Howling Howitzer*, and *The Kit-Bag*.

- **Medical:** Magazines from hospitals and hospital ships based in the UK, France, America, and the Dominions written by doctors, nurses and patients, such as *The Iodine Chronicle* and *Happy Though Wounded*—including poems, stories and sketches by nurses and women ambulance drivers.

- **Prisoners of War:** Internment camp magazines written by Allied troops in Germany and by German troops in Britain and France, including *Prisoner’s Pie* and *Knockaloe Lager-Zeitung*.

- **Associated Civilian Organizations:** Magazines from charitable organizations such as the Y.M.C.A. and the Church Army, and independent civilian organizations such as the Soldiers’ Wives and Mothers’ League.

**SUPPORTS RESEARCH ACROSS DISCIPLINES**

Indispensable for research on any aspect of literature or history of the First World War, but also essential for:

- Examining civilian’s views at a time of war
- Research in women’s studies and contemporary culture
- History of medicine, care-giving, and the welfare of veterans
- Genealogy, personal, and local history
WORKS OF FORGOTTEN AND ANONYMOUS SOLDIER-POETS
The writings constitute an alternative corpus of war poetry against which the better-known works of Owen, Sassoon, Gurney and Blunden can be freshly considered. The magazines constitute a popular form of dialogue amongst the soldiers of a particular unit about the matters that were most important to them. Whatever his circumstances and location, the serviceman had the opportunity to read and write about his experiences for the amusement and enlightenment of his comrades.

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“…an invaluable treasure trove of previously unknown and rare primary sources… ...it will be indispensable in providing fresh insights into the conflict in the run up to the centenary in 2014...”

Dr. Kate Kennedy, English Faculty, University of Cambridge