

World War I

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_XPZQ0LAlR4

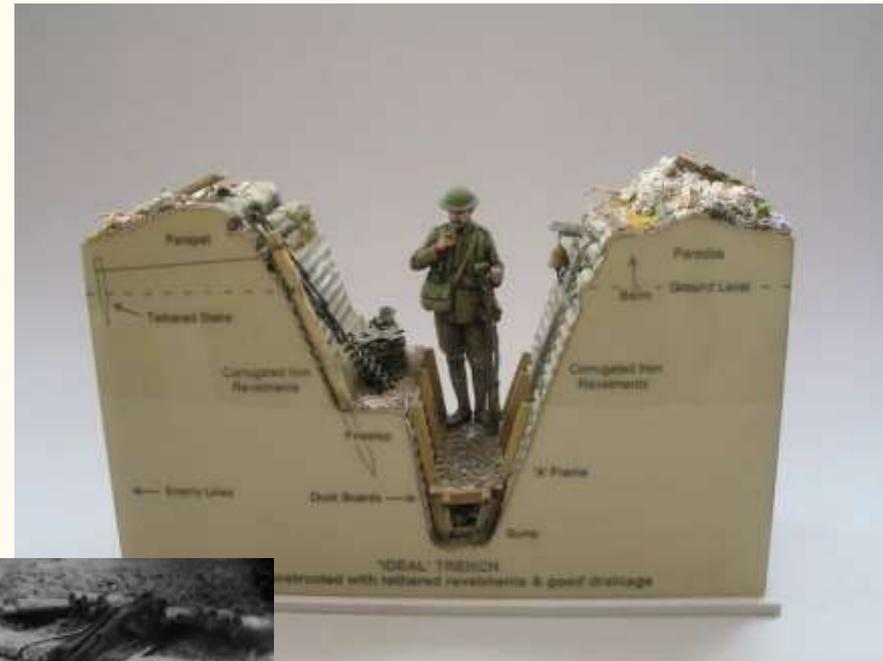
World War I: Basic Facts

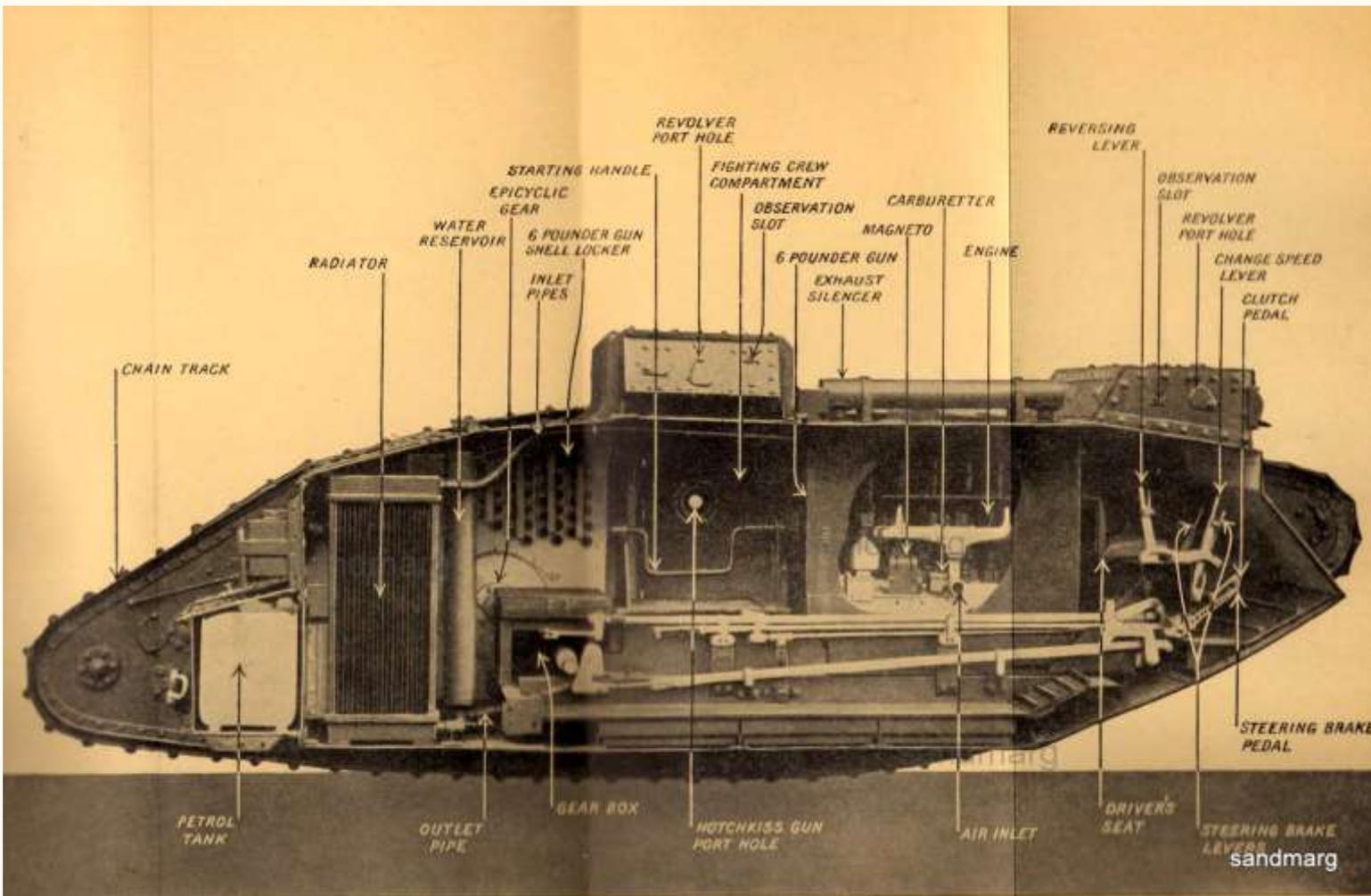
- Know as the “Great War” or the “War to End All Wars”
- WWI began in 1914 after the assassination of Austro-Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne.
- The war pitted the Central Powers—mainly Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey—against the Allies—mainly France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Japan, and, from 1917, the United States.
- Trench warfare: Combat in which armies attack, counterattack, and defend from relatively permanent systems of trenches dug into the ground.
- The first tanks are used in warfare.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand is Assassinated



Trench Warfare





World War I: Basic Facts

- 15 million people were killed in the war.
- New technology made the war extremely deadly.
- Soldiers writing about the reality of the war significantly altered public opinion on war across the world.
- The Treaty of Versailles ended the war, placing the blame heavily onto Germany. The severe consequences of the treaty for Germany would be an important factor in the buildup to and outbreak of WWII.
- Overall, the war led to cynicism and disillusionment. Rather, war was no longer seen as glorious and heroic as it often had been in the past.





Map of Europe after the War

Economic Decline

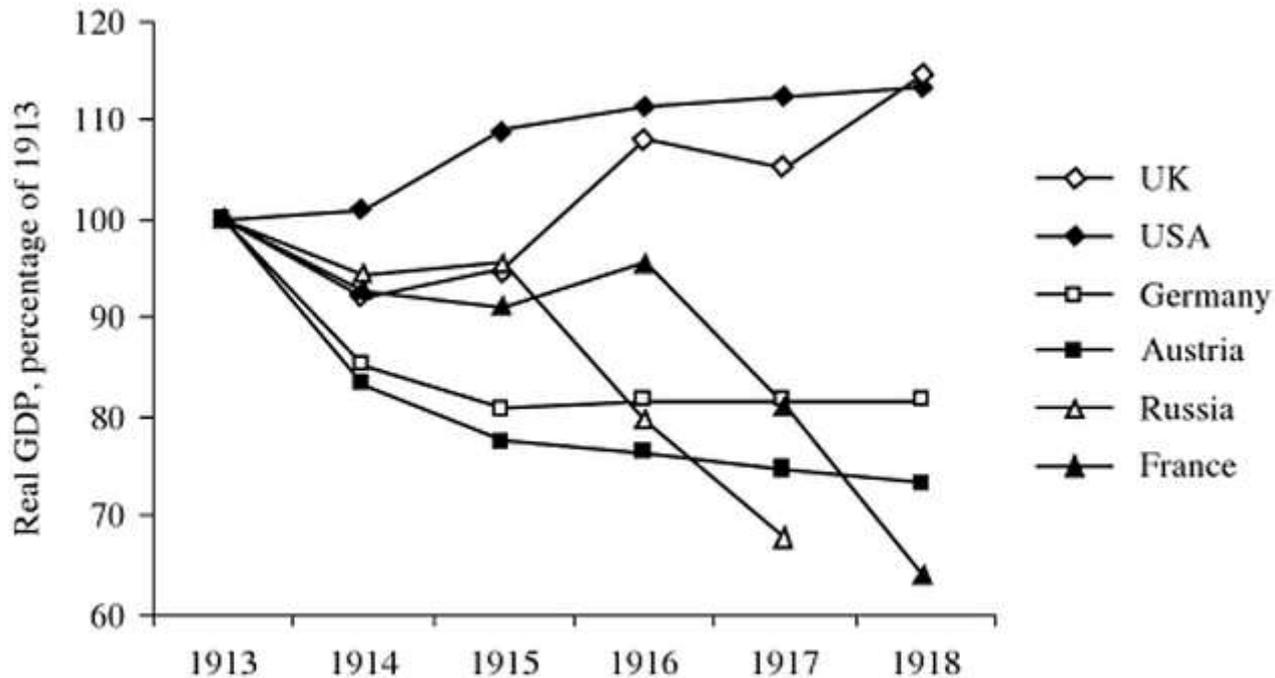


Figure 1.1. The wartime change in GDP: six countries

Does it matter?—losing your legs?...

For people will always be kind,

And you need not show that you mind

When the others come in after hunting

To gobble their muffins and eggs.

Does it matter?—losing your sight?...

There's such splendid work for the blind;

And people will always be kind,

As you sit on the terrace remembering

And turning your face to the light.

Do they matter?—those dreams from the pit?...

You can drink and forget and be glad,

And people won't say that you're mad;

For they'll know you've fought for your country

And no one will worry a bit.

Does It Matter? by Siegfried Sassoon

How would you summarize the poem?

Summary

Different scenarios: The **loss** of the **legs**, the **eyes** and then the **mind**.

- By suggesting that these injuries are not so bad, the author is able to emphasize the severity of the injuries and the true cost of war.
- The poem does not highlight the glory or heroism of war, but rather the **trauma** and lasting effects of war on those who fought.

What are some themes in the poem? What is the tone of the poem?

Themes

- Anti-war
- Mental health

The poem highlights the ideas of non-soldiers (civilians) who have not experienced such war; they do not understand the severity of what the soldiers have gone through.

Tone

Ironic, somber (sad), disillusioned

Analysis

- Of course it “matters” if you lose your legs.
 - People “gobble” (eat very quickly) their food, blind to the pain and **suffering** of the returned soldier.
- The loss of sight is not made better or easier by kind people as the poem suggests, highlighting the absurdity of the idea.
- The *pit*: Both the trenches and the “hell” that is war
 - People are happy to accept the drinking (issue of alcoholism) of the soldiers as they fought for their country; no one has to be concerned about these men.