

WORLD WAR ONE KILLING FIELDS

DEATH AND DESTRUCTION ON THE
BATTLEFIELDS OF THE GREAT WAR
1914-1918

by Cotter Bass



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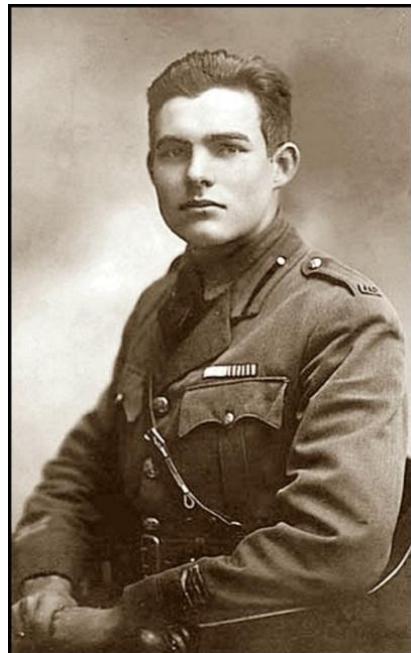
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THE CALL TO ARMS

At the beginning of 1914 the British Army had a reported strength of 710,000 men including reserves, of which approximately 80,000 were regular troops ready for war. By the end of the First World War, almost 1 in 4 of the total male population of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, more than five million men, had enlisted. Of these men, nearly 3 million joined as Volunteers while almost 3 million were conscripts.



On April 6, 1917 the United States joined its allies - Britain, France, and Russia - to fight in World War I. Under the command of Major General John J. Pershing, more than 2 million U.S. soldiers fought on battlefields in France.



ERNEST HEMINGWAY, A YOUNG REPORTER, WAS REPEATEDLY REJECTED FOR MILITARY SERVICE, BUT HE FINALLY MANAGED TO SIGN UP FOR AMBULANCE DUTY IN ITALY AS A MEMBER OF AN AMERICAN RED CROSS FIELD SERVICE UNIT. THREE MONTHS LATER HE WAS INJURED ON THE AUSTRO-ITALIAN FRONT



MANFRED ALBRECHT FREIHERR VON RICHTHOFEN, KNOWN AS THE 'RED BARON,' WAS A FIGHTER PILOT WITH THE GERMAN AIR FORCE. CONSIDERED THE ACE-OF-ACES OF WWI, HE WAS SHOT DOWN AND KILLED NEAR VAUX-SUR-SOMME, FRANCE

KILLING FIELDS



**A FATHER, AN OFFICER OF THE SERBIAN ARMY,
MOURNS HIS SON, A FALLEN SOLDIER**



**GERMAN MACHINE-GUN NEST AND DEAD GUNNER AT
VILLERS DEVY DUN SASSEY, FRANCE, NOVEMBER 4,
1918, ONE WEEK BEFORE THE END OF THE WAR**



**FRENCH SOLDIERS, SOME WOUNDED, SOME DEAD,
AFTER TAKING COURCELLES, IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF OISE, FRANCE, ca. JUNE 1918**



DOG EATING REMAINS OF DEAD SOLDIER, ca. 1917

GOING HOME

World War I was one of the most terrifying events in the history of mankind. The war was so incredibly destructive due to the life-altering physical and mental effects for soldiers and their families. Soldiers were considered heroes when they arrived home. Upon their return, numerous street parties were held to thank them for their gallant service.

For the 18 million military personnel and civilians who perished in World War I, there was no 'going home' in the traditional sense. Rather, **home** became one of the more than 4,000 military cemeteries and memorials around the world.



FRENCH MILITARY CEMETERY AT THE DOUAUMONT OSSUARY CONTAINING THE REMAINS OF MORE THAN 130,000 UNKNOWN SOLDIERS

DEVASTATION

The First World War cut a swath of destruction across Europe, leaving centuries-old towns and hallowed buildings in ruins. Rebuilding took generations.

Even before the Armistice on November 11, 1918, some of the local population was beginning to return from their places of refuge. Every building was shattered and in ruins: houses, shops, municipal buildings, schools, cathedrals, and churches were gone. It would be a seemingly insurmountable task to rebuild the devastated landscape to its original state.



RUINS AT PAS DE CALAIS, FRANCE

EPILOGUE



Before the ink had dried on the Armistice of 1918, many politicians, military experts, journalists, illuminati, and soothsayers openly and unabashedly declared World War One to be 'The War to End All Wars.' While seemingly prophetic at that time, this bold pronouncement proved to be painfully flawed. A mere 21 years later, Adolph Hitler and the German military machine attacked Poland resulting in the birth of World War II. Throughout the balance of the 20th century and beyond, armed conflicts, whether politically defined as police actions or all-out war, have continued to plague mankind.



**Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of his fury will fail.**

Proverbs 22:8