

The Great War 100 Years Later

The College, the Country, and the World



Lewis & Clark College, Aubrey R. Watzek Library
August 2015 - July 2016



Acknowledgements

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Cover design by Emma Hoch-Schneider.

Inside cover: "Gas Mask Angel," Musée des Beaux-Arts, Tournai, Belgium. Photo by David Campion.

Introduction

BETWEEN 1914 and 1918 the conflict then known as the Great War, or the World War, spread across the globe and unleashed death and destruction on an unimaginable scale. It has been called the first “industrial” or “modern” war and, though it originated in Europe, no part of the world was left unaffected. The war set in motion political, social, economic and cultural forces that proved impossible to contain and that changed the world forever. In many ways we still live with the legacies of this war even though today there is almost no one left with living memory of it.

Since 2014, the centenary of the First World War has been a major event commemorated across the world. This exhibition offers a glimpse into the war through a wide variety of documents and artifacts while considering individual, institutional, national and global perspectives.

The central focus is the individual wartime experience of Morgan S. Odell, a California native who graduated from college in the same month that his country entered the Great War. Odell immediately enlisted as an army ambulance driver and served on the Italian Front in the final months of the war. His letters home contain detailed and intimate eyewitness descriptions and deep insights into human nature and his own personal growth. After his military service, Odell pursued a career in ministry and higher education and later became the first president of Lewis & Clark

College. Although he was only one person, Odell’s letters in many ways reflect the American experience of the Great War: a loss of New World innocence, engagement with new cultures and traditions far from home, and both the questioning and affirmation of deeply held beliefs and values.

The exhibition also reveals how the Great War affected Lewis & Clark (formerly Albany College). It highlights the contributions made by students, faculty and alumni—both in military service and on the home front—and reveals how the experience of the war forced the college to reevaluate its educational mission and core values.

Finally, the exhibition includes several thematic displays of books, documents, photographs, propaganda posters and military medals and insignia from over a dozen countries. These reveal the perspectives, ideologies, hopes, fears, and memories of those who participated in the war and endured its material privations and terrible human cost.

The items in the exhibition are drawn from a wide range of sources. These include first edition books in the Watzek Library holdings, wartime letters in the personal papers of Morgan S. Odell, Albany College records from the Lewis & Clark archives, wartime prints and posters from the Watzek Library Special Collections, and dozens of documents and artifacts from private collections.



Morgan S. Odell and the Great War

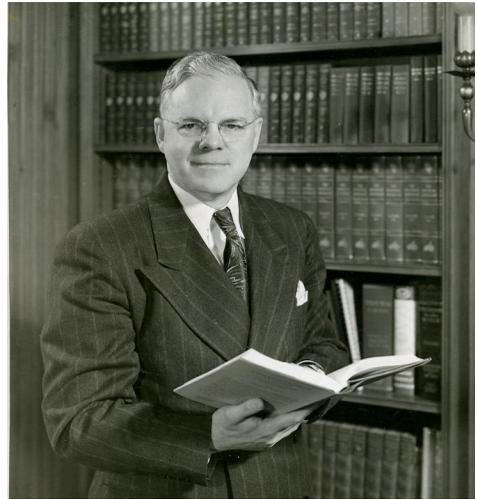
DR. MORGAN S. ODELL was the first president of Lewis & Clark College from 1942 to 1960. As a young man, Odell served with the US Army Ambulance Service (USAAS) in Italy at the end of the Great War. During this time, he wrote and received hundreds of letters from his wife, Ruth, and his mother and father, in which they describe their experiences and reflections during the war, both on the front and at home. As historical documents these letters provide a window into the formative experience of one of the most important figures in the history of Lewis & Clark College and, in a larger sense, they offer insight into American participation in the Great War. The letters are part of the Morgan S. Odell Papers maintained permanently in the college's special collections in Watzek Library.

Early Life and Christian Background

Morgan S. Odell was born November 4, 1894, in Moline, Illinois, and grew up in Pasadena, California. Odell was raised in a devout Methodist household, attended church regularly, and was the local president of Pasadena's Municipal League. His father was a prominent lawyer who had run for Congress, unsuccessfully, as a proponent of the temperance movement. Odell himself was a supporter of Prohibition. Throughout his life he was thoroughly encouraged by his father and later by his wife, Ruth, to become a minister or pursue a career in higher education. Odell attended Occidental



The "Pasadena Boys" marching into Camp Crane in Allentown, PA, June 1917.



Dr. Morgan S. Odell, first president of Lewis & Clark College, 1942-1960.

College in Los Angeles along with his younger brother. From his letters we see that "Oxy" (the nickname of Occidental) immersed Odell in a network of students and alumni and constituted a major part of his identity. Throughout his days in the USAAS, he fondly refers to his time with the "Oxy boys." While on leave during his training, Odell returned home and married his childhood sweetheart, Ruth Sayre, in Pasadena.

Enlistment, Training and Deployment

Odell enlisted in the Army shortly after his graduation from Occidental and the US declaration of war. He arrived at Camp Crane in Allentown, PA, on June 19, 1917, as one of 126 men in the Pasadena Unit which was later, under the US Government orders for a Draft Army, designated Section 565. Most of Private Odell's days were spent marching, hiking and performing drills. He complained about the amount of leisure time that left him nothing to do but "loaf" around and write letters.

In Allentown, Odell and his fellow soldiers were trained in auto mechanics, field medicine, and combat procedures such as preparation for a gas attack. He also received rudimentary instruction in French, and

later, Italian. Additionally, Odell performed guard duty and trained new recruits in mechanics. In one letter to his wife, he describes the gas mask test, where soldiers were required to don their masks and remain inside a chamber filled with chlorine gas for ten minutes.



Cpl. Odell (left) at Camp Crane, PA, May 1918.

After nearly a year at Camp Crane, the soldiers' morale began to decline. The four thousand men there had been led to believe multiple times that they would be deployed, but repeatedly they were not. Eventually the order came though. Odell, now a corporal, believed that he would be sent to France, where there would be a certain "element of danger" but his section instead received orders to deploy to Northern Italy to assist the Italian army in their fight against Austria-Hungary.

Given his religious upbringing, Odell initially considered many of his army comrades to be immoral people. In 1917, when he was training in Allentown, he commented that "it makes me realize a woman's unhappy position more and more, as I see the rottenness of this life in some of its aspects and realize that some women in the future will have to take these men on or what is left of them." However, two years later and after having served on the front, Odell had a change of opinion about his fellow soldiers:

"I have lived with many of these boys for twenty months so have come to know them quite well. I have come to wonder if what we felt to be the edge of Christianity and morality was not merely an edge established by society quite often without reference to Christ's teachings. I know many of these fellows who swear, smoke, sometimes drink and sometimes approach the suggestive in their speech have hearts of gold when it comes to caring for those around them... What I feel is this: that these boys with good hearts but careless actions are after all quite good Christians."

During a bout with pneumonia in February 1918, Odell wrote to his wife and father that he had done a lot of growing in the year since he had joined the service. His personal growth and outlook continued to change throughout the rest of his journey overseas and finally back home.



Certificate of Donation, *Ambulanze dei Poeti Americani* (American Poets' Ambulances) 1917.



GMC Model 16 AA military ambulance. The GMC was the most commonly used ambulance by the US Army on the Italian Front. Ford ambulances were used in France and Belgium.

The United States Army Ambulance Service

American volunteers, including an 18-year-old Ernest Hemingway, had been active in ambulance work in support of Allied armies since the war began in 1914. When the United States entered three years later, the government agreed to integrate the existing volunteers into the US military structure, and created the United States Army Ambulance Service (USAAS) for that purpose. General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force, was pleased with the ambulance service that the American volunteers had set up under the French system. He actively incorporated French techniques and regimental structures into the new corps. The USAAS training center at Camp Crane was commanded by Colonel E.E. Persons and mustered and trained Ambulance Service recruits from around the country. Each section that deployed to Italy was equipped with the following vehicles:

- One 1¼ ton Pierce-Arrow Truck
- One Dodge truck
- One Dodge touring car
- One 12-Standard GMC ambulances
- One GMC repair truck
- One Motorcycle with sidecar

Those sections deployed to France were given the same set, with the exception that the GMC vehicles were replaced in equal numbers with Fords at the request of the French government. A total of 11,750 enlisted men

and 224 commissioned officers were in active service in the USAAS during America's seventeen-month involvement in the war. USAAS personnel served on the Italian and French fronts, sustaining 787 casualties and losing 40 prisoners of war.

In the summer of 1918, Section 565 sailed for Italy. They arrived in Genoa at the end of June and a month later deployed to the mountains in Northeast Italy near the border with Austria. Odell, now a sergeant, drove ambulances, mostly at night, back and forth from the front to the field hospitals. These trips took him across steep, narrow mountain roads shared by mule carts, soldiers, and civilians fleeing the war zone. Odell remarked, "I have seen some of the hell of war lately and found it a thing to be abhorred and be gotten through with. I have carried wounded enemies who have been cared for with the rest so there is no hate in my heart except at those who have caused this thing." During his four months at the front, Odell evacuated mortally wounded men, experienced a gas attack and crashed several ambulances in roads cratered by artillery shells. Odell's section remained in Italy several months past the Armistice of November 1918.

A Gas Attack

On August 6, 1918, while in Italy, Odell experienced firsthand one of the newest and most terrible advancements in war technology: poison gas. In a letter to his mother he described the event:



"French Front on the Somme— 'Don't go over there without taking your mask.'"

"I had almost decided that our war was a tame affair until yesterday. They had a big day evidently over among the Tedeschi, as they call the enemy over here, so they tossed a lot of shells over the mountains for us to dodge. The shells themselves did not bother us a great deal although they ripped holes in the road up a ways. By accident or design they mixed up some gas shells with the others and so just about the time I was enjoying a late meal after a long run things began to get interesting. We could see the clouds of gas from the bursting shells but did not know what it meant until the sickish, sweet odor came down to us and then we jumped for those ever present masks... It is brain tiring work sitting around with a pair of pincers on your nose, a hose in your mouth, looking thru a pair of fogged eyepieces with a strong elastic cutting the top of your head off and wondering just how much gas is outside. Glad it does not happen very often or I might grow bald-headed."

Postwar Assignments and the Return Home

In early 1919 and while still in Europe, Sgt. Odell was discharged from the army and transferred to the American Red Cross. He then traveled across Europe for nine months, aiding in the rehabilitation of war-torn countries. His travels included visits to Rome, Monte Carlo and Paris and even included a visit to the Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles just weeks before the peace treaty was signed there in June. Later that year he traveled by ship across the Mediterranean from Marseilles to Romania, at one point passing through the Dardanelles Straits where the Gallipoli campaign had taken place in 1915. Odell wrote about all these experiences in vivid detail in his letters home.

Odell sailed back to the United States in August 1919, two years and two months after he had first enlisted in California. His experiences in the war confirmed his decision to enter the ministry. In 1921, Odell completed seminary at the University of Southern California and became an education minister at the First Methodist Church in Pasadena. In 1931, he acquired a doctorate in divinity from the University of Chicago and joined the faculty of Occidental College, his alma mater, where he taught religion and philosophy. Dr. Odell was appointed the first President of Lewis & Clark College in 1942.



"Signing of the Peace in the Hall of Mirrors" by Sir William Orpen, oil on canvas, 1919. Image courtesy of the Imperial War Museum (IWM ART 2856).



Image courtesy of the Library of Congress (cph3g07705).

The Home Front

DURING THE WAR, posters were a popular way to communicate information, both on the front and back home. The particular posters in this collection are French, but they were associated with the American war effort as well. Posters were used extensively as propaganda on all sides of the war to instill hatred of the enemy, promote the purchase of war bonds, and influence public opinion and behavior.



La France Pressera sur son Coeur ses Fils qui l'auront Sauvée

France will press against her Heart the Sons who have Saved Her

The quotation is attributed to Raymond Poincaré, President of France from 1913 to 1920. The French and American pennants tied together symbolize the friendship and alliance between the two republics. The poster is sponsored by *Les Foyers du Soldat* (Soldiers' Homes) and *L'Union Franco-Americaine* (Franco-American Union) two organizations devoted to providing services and amenities for soldiers.

Comptoir National D'Escompte de Paris, Emprunt National, 1918 – Pour hâter la Victoire, et pour nous revoir bientôt, Souscrivez!

National Loan 1918 – To hasten Victory, and to see us again soon, Subscribe!

This poster depicts two women, one in a black Alsatian headdress and the other in the typical garb of a French peasant, each wearing the *tricolore* cockade of the Revolution, waving (presumably to departing soldiers). Alsace was one of the French territories lost to Germany after the Franco-Prussian War in 1871, and one which France was eager to reclaim at the outbreak of the Great War. The recovery of Alsace-Lorraine was a national obsession among the French and this poster uses the charged imagery of the Alsatian woman and evokes the spirit of the French Revolution to convince readers to contribute to the War Loan.



L'Emprunt de la Libération, 1918

The Liberation Loan, 1918

The flags of various Allied nations bear down on Kaiser Wilhelm II, showing the power of the Allies as they crush the Germans. The Kaiser's sword is broken, he is under a storm cloud and his head is bowed – all symbols of defeat. This poster encourages contributions to the national War Loan to support the Allies, specifically France, to ensure the defeat of the Central powers.



Vous aussi faites votre Devoir: avec toutes vos Ressources souscrivez à l'Emprunt (1917)

Do your Duty: subscribe to the Loan with all of your Resources

A French peasant woman, while carrying her infant, brings a rifle out to the field where her husband is pushing a plow, indicating that he must enlist in the French army and defend the nation. This poster indicates that it is the duty of all citizens to make sacrifices for the war effort through military service, labor, or financial support. This family is sacrificing a husband, father, and provider. By subscribing to the Loan, civilians would be doing the least that was expected, and in some cases much less than many of their fellow countrymen.

Quand tu parle de la Femme, pense a ta Mère, a ta Soeur, a ta Fiancée, et tu ne diras pas de bêtises

When you speak about Women, think of your Mother, your Sister, your Fiancée, and you will not say silly things

This poster depicts the profiles of two women, and reminds soldiers to be kind and respectful toward all the women they meet during their service. *Les Foyers du Soldat* (Soldiers' Homes) and *L'Union Franco-Américaine* (Franco-American Union), provided over 1,500 canteens for soldiers. This poster, and others like it, would have been displayed in those canteens.



4e Emprunt National. Souscrivez. Société Centrale des Banques de Province (1918)

The 4th National Loan. Subscribe. Central Association of Provincial Banks

This poster shows a young French soldier in combat uniform and full kit, gazing bravely as he steps out of a trench. Through the mere image of this soldier and the single word *souscrivez* (subscribe), the government promotes the sale of bonds and loan subscriptions to support this man's bravery and determination and that of his comrades.

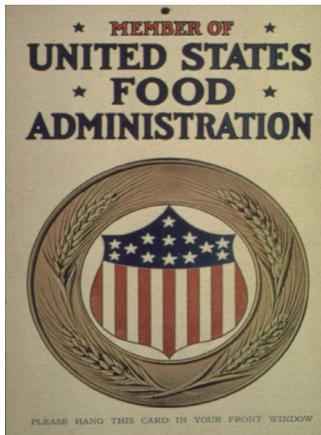
Food Conservation

The “food problem” was a major concern on the home front and abroad. In the United States, the Lever Food and Fuel Act was passed in 1917 to prevent the continuing rise of food prices. It forbade hoarding, monopolizing or limiting production of necessary items, especially food, for economic gain. This Act gave the executive branch the power to regulate the nation’s food and fuel during wartime.

Postmarks on some letters between Ruth and Morgan Odell read “food will win the war.” This encouraged Americans to reduce consumption of preserved food, sugar, flour and other products that could be sent abroad. “Liberty Bread” reduced the amount of flour in bread by replacing it with potatoes, which were easier and cheaper to produce than flour. The term “Hooverite” came from the head of the US Food

Administration, Herbert Hoover, whose program increased rations sent abroad to American soldiers and Allied countries by decreasing domestic consumption. Hoover intended not only to strengthen the Allied military effort, but also to reduce the chance of uprisings from

famine. On the Pacific Coast, a “food preparedness



A “Hoover card” for display in front window showing commitment to food conservation.

demonstration train” was established with the Union Pacific Railway to teach farmers in the Inland Empire to can and preserve food as well as maximize production.

Women were especially targeted in food conservation efforts in their role as cooks and as mothers and wives. Wartime recipes were abundant in newspapers, such as banana soup, carrot pudding and “war jelly” (a substitute for gelatin made from Japanese sea moss). Odell’s mother collected peach and apricot pits to be



Letter from December 1917 to Ruth Odell from Morgan with the postmark “Food will win the war, don’t waste it.”

burned and used as charcoal filters in the respirators of gas masks. Even as a sewing teacher, Ruth was mandated to attend food conservation lectures and to spread the information to her classes. In the United States, there was no official rationing, so the Food Administration relied on social pressure. Ruth’s friend told her she should have a “Hoover card” which likely referred to a piece of paper placed in the window of one’s home that denoted participation in the Food Conservation program and encouraged others to do the same. As Ruth stated in a letter, “I can’t understand how a mother can send her son, and then keep right on eating and even wasting the foods which he will need, when she might just as well use some other food.” Hoover’s methods were largely successful as they prevented severe food shortages within Allied countries at a time when the populations of the Central powers were facing the prospect of starvation.

The Influenza Pandemic

One of the major causes of death during war years was the “Spanish flu,” a severe form of influenza that spread across the world. Many of Morgan and Ruth’s family members were infected, including Ruth. They survived but a close family friend perished. On November 10, 1918 (a day before the Armistice), Ruth wrote “there have been from 50 to 100 deaths a day in Los Angeles for the past two or three weeks.” While vaccinations had begun to be administered to soldiers, as Morgan describes in his letters from Allentown, they were for typhus, also known as “trench fever.” Food prices were also extremely high, mainly in

Europe, Asia and Africa, leaving many people around the world malnourished and more susceptible to the disease.

Unlike other influenza viruses, the Spanish flu killed mainly young adults as they had stronger immune reactions that destroyed their own bodies. The close quarters of troops fighting in the war likely contributed to the swift movement of the disease as did the increased mobility from modern transportation. Death did not often occur from the flu itself but usually from the development of pneumonia as a result of a weakened immune system.

Ruth and Morgan's other family members described the mandatory closure of communal spaces in order to contain the spread of influenza. Churches and schools were shut down for months as precaution. In his letters to his son, Samuel Odell mentions that the Christian Scientists in Los Angeles—who did not believe in medicine—were suing the government for religious persecution because of the mandatory closure of community spaces, like churches. In the United States around half a million people died from influenza. The worldwide death toll is estimated at fifty million, several times the total number of people killed in the war.



Preparedness Day Bombing in San Francisco on July 22, 1916.

Labor Agitation and Resistance to War

While studying in Berkeley during the period of American neutrality, Ruth wrote of her proximity to the Preparedness Day Bombing on July 22, 1916, in San Francisco. This occurred when the city held a

parade, the largest in its history, to prepare American citizens for the eventual entry of the nation into the war. This came at a time when the labor unions, specifically the International Workers of the World (IWW), or “Wobblies,” were primarily isolationists and often socialists. They opposed American entry into the war since they believed it meant workers of the world fighting each other for the benefit of capitalists. Ten people were killed in the bombing and forty were wounded. Eventually, two radical labor leaders were convicted, though their trial was botched and required federal intervention. The two convicted men were likely framed. Morgan mentions that while he “almost agrees” with the *Los Angeles Times* accusations against the bombers, he argues that the *Times* “slams the Labor people continually and unjustly.”

The Red Cross

During the war, the American Red Cross provided medical services abroad and organized volunteers on the home front. In Pasadena, Ruth and Morgan's mother volunteered with the Red Cross through their church. In Oregon, an Albany College instructor of biology, Margaret Mann, set up the Albany chapter of the organization with over 125 members. The Red Cross was one of the main ways women on the home front interacted directly with the war.

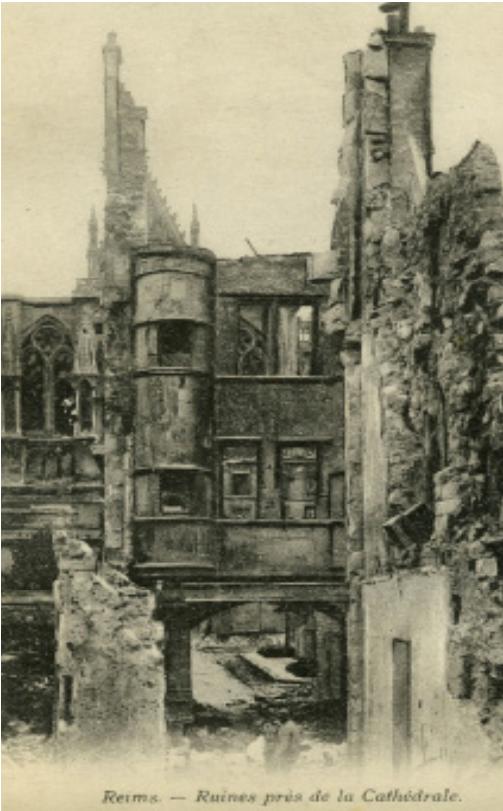
Domestically, the Red Cross had to use its medical resources mainly to address the sudden epidemic of influenza. Apart from its Medical Corps, the Red Cross in the United States also consisted of the Home Service, that aided in communication and financial matters between soldiers and their families, and the Production Corps that provided clothes, bandages and comfort kits to soldiers stationed overseas. Ruth and Morgan's mother likely participated in the Production Corps as they often mentioned their sewing tasks in regard to the Red Cross.

After the war, Morgan volunteered with the American Red Cross to accompany the shipment of surplus US ambulances to Romania. As an ambulance driver, he likely did not provide medical training but instead taught the Romanians how to drive and maintain the ambulances.

Timeline of Events



Explosion of a large-caliber shell on the Western Front.



Ruins near the Cathedral in Reims, France.

1914

Jun 28: Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, is assassinated in Sarajevo by Serbian Gavrilo Princip.

Jul 28: Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia.

Jul 31: Russia declares war on Austria-Hungary to protect Serbia and mobilizes against Germany.

Aug 4: German army crosses into neutral Belgium on their way to invading France. In response, Britain declares war on Germany.

Sep 10: 1st Battle of the Marne ends German advance into France. First trenches are dug.

Dec 25: Unofficial “Christmas Truce” along the Western Front.

1915

Apr 22: First use of poison gas (chlorine) by Germany at the 2nd Battle of Ypres.

Apr 25: Allies begin eight-month long attack on the Turkish peninsula of Gallipoli, spearheaded by ANZAC troops from Australia and New Zealand.

May 7: German U-boat sinks RMS *Lusitania* off the Southwest coast of Ireland, killing 1198 people, including 128 Americans.

May 23: Italy enters the war on the side of Britain, France, and Russia.

1916

Feb 21: Battle of Verdun, the longest of the war, begins between French and German forces on the Western Front. After ten months approx. one million casualties are inflicted on both sides.

Apr 24-29: Easter Rising in Dublin fails to establish an independent Irish Republic.

Jul 1: British and imperial forces begin a five-month offensive along the River Somme. 20,000 soldiers die on the first day. In the end, there are approx. one million casualties and no breakthrough for the Allies.

Apr: Morgan S. Odell graduates from Occidental College in Pasadena, CA.

May 19: Odell enlists in the US Army.

Jun 18: Pvt. Odell assigned to Battalion K, Section 565, of the Army Ambulance Service (US-AAS) and sent for training at Camp Crane, PA.



American and French soldiers advance during the Battle of Cantigny in May 1918.

Jun 13: Cpl. Odell and USAAS Section 565 depart the United States bound for Genoa, Italy.

Aug 1: Section 565 stationed in Oné di Fonte thirty miles northwest of Venice.

Oct 24-Nov 3: Sgt. Odell participates in the decisive Battle of Vittorio-Veneto that knocks Austria-Hungary out of the war.

Apr 27: Odell visits the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles, two months before the Treaty is signed.

Jul 2: Odell sails from Marseilles, France, for duty in Romania with the American Red Cross.

Aug 23: Odell returns to the United States.

1917 **Jan 19:** British intelligence decodes the “Zimmerman Telegram,” in which Germany encourages Mexico to invade the United States.

Mar 15: Tsar Nicholas II of Russia abdicates and hands power to a provisional government.

Apr 6: US Congress approves President Woodrow Wilson’s request for a declaration of war against Germany. America enters the war.

Jul 3: First wave of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), commanded by General John J. “Black Jack” Pershing, lands in France.

Nov 2: Balfour Declaration promises British support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. A month later British forces take Jerusalem from the Turks after the 3rd Battle of Gaza.

Dec 3: Bolshevik government representative Leon Trotsky signs the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with Germany, ending Russian involvement in the war.

1918 **1918-19:** Two waves of an influenza pandemic cause more deaths than four years of war.

Jan 8: President Wilson declares his “Fourteen Points.”

Feb 6: Women in Britain and Ireland receive the vote.

Oct 28: German sailors in the port of Kiel mutiny when ordered into a suicidal last battle, sparking the German Revolution.

Nov 9: Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates amid uprisings in cities across Germany.

Nov 11: Germany signs the Armistice ceasing hostilities on the Western Front and ending war.

1919 **Jun 28:** Exactly five years after the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand, the Treaty of Versailles is signed. The harsh and humiliating terms imposed on Germany are often seen today as planting the seeds of the Second World War twenty years later.

Albany College at War



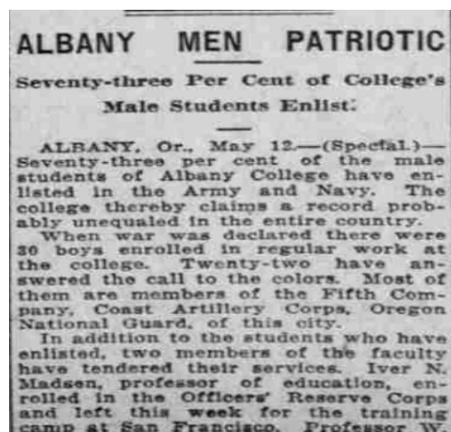
Postcard of Albany College, 1912.

ALBANY COLLEGE, founded in 1867, was the predecessor of Lewis & Clark College. Located in Albany, Oregon, the college was established by Presbyterian pioneers as a co-educational institution. Albany College eventually moved to Portland and changed its name to Lewis & Clark College in 1942. Its first president was Dr. Morgan S. Odell, a Methodist minister, religious scholar, and decorated veteran of the Great War. During his eighteen years as president, Odell left his mark on the college by hiring innovative instructors, diversifying the curriculum, increasing enrollment and securing the school's future for years to come.

By the time the United States declared war on Germany in April 1917, entering the war on the side of the Allies, Albany was still a fairly small college. It had a graduating class of just nine in the spring of 1917. In the enlistment drives that followed, boys in universities and colleges across the country joined the armed forces in large numbers, drastically reducing national student rolls and decreasing college revenue. Albany College's student body was severely depleted. Of the continuing male students from the 1916-17 academic year, 76% left the school to enlist. The four men that graduated that same year all embarked on some kind of military service. The October 1917 issue of the Albany College Bulletin proudly printed the names of 24 students and 14 alumni who had already signed up. However, in an attempt to balance patriotic sentiment

with financial reality, the issue also featured an appeal to alumni, discreetly printed on the penultimate page, for donations to keep the college afloat. In the next issue, the College's situation was stated more plainly; in a dire warning to subscribers, the College wrote that its "life is threatened" by evaporating revenue and ruinous debt. At the end of the newsletter, the College included a blank subscription form for the "Albany College War Emergency Fund," soliciting alumni to help their alma mater bear the indirect costs of the US entry into the war.

In a subsequent issue of the Bulletin from March 1918, the argument behind the College's appeals for students and money began to shift. The bulletin reprinted an excerpt from an article titled "The American College and the Great War," in which the author, Robert Lincoln Kelly, secretary of the Council of Church Boards of Education, put forth to readers that American colleges were essential for preserving the American way of life. The Great War was, in part, "a contest between the American schoolmaster and his ideals with the German schoolmaster and his ideals" (the former presumably being the more virtuous of the two). American colleges and universities had for two-and-a-half centuries, "quietly leavened our population with the essence of Americanism in ideal and training."



Clipping from *Ashland Tidings* on April 30, 1917.

College-educated leadership, therefore was necessary for the successful prosecution of the war effort.

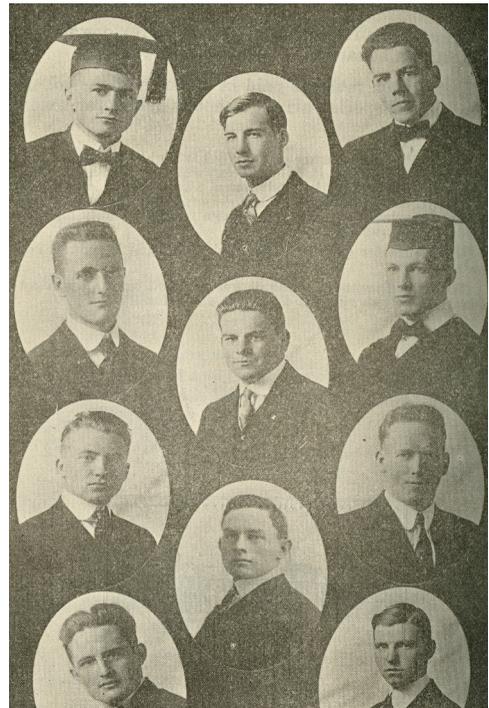
The newsletter took this idea one step further. It was not just educated leadership, but “Christian educated leadership” that was necessary. In an addendum to Lincoln’s article, the College noted the positive effect that college-educated men had on the moral health of army life, citing as an example a petition from a group of college men to enact prohibition in the service and create “zones of morality” around army bases. They argued that Germany, despite its considerable intellectual achievements, had degenerated into a militaristic aggressor nation precisely because of its perceived atheism. “The educated leader who is not standing on the rock of a positive Christianity is a world menace,” warned the Bulletin. This, in effect, became its pitch to readers: Albany College must persist, as must all Christian colleges, because only from these virtuous institutions would the enlightened leaders of the future emanate. The United States “has no other insurance,” the Bulletin proclaimed, “against developing Kaiser Wilhelms, Hindenburgs and Ludendorffs. Germany is today a startling example of a nation highly educated and rotten at the heart.”



Albany College graduating class of 1873.



The first building of Albany College, 1867.



Photos of the Albany College men who enlisted in the armed forces. Albany College Bulletin, October 1918.

G. Gavan Duffy.

ROYAL COMMISSION

ROYAL COMMISSION

ON THE

REBELLION IN IRELAND.

REPORT OF COMMISSION.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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1916.

Parliamentary Report of the Investigation into the Easter Rising, 1916. The signature at the top is that of George Gavan Duffy, esq., the attorney who defended the Irish rebel Roger Casement at his treason trial.

Ireland: War, Rebellion, Independence, Partition



Easter Rising 1916, Irish Republican propaganda poster.

IRELAND was a country on the verge of civil war when the Great War began in the summer of 1914. Though they were considered part of the United Kingdom and governed from London, the Irish had a long history of antagonism and rebellion against Britain. In 1912, the Third Home Rule Bill was passed which granted limited self-rule to Ireland. This was the result of a long campaign by Irish nationalists for greater autonomy, but not everyone in the country was satisfied. Radical nationalists called for the full independence of an Irish Republic while Protestants, mostly in the northern province of Ulster, vowed to remain united with Britain. Both sides were prepared to use violence to achieve these irreconcilable goals and began to form volunteer militias for the inevitable conflict. The Home Rule bill passed, but by then Britain was at war and the implementation was postponed until the conclusion of the conflict in Europe.

From the outset Ireland played a major role in the war. Irish regiments had for centuries fought in Britain's wars and had been deployed throughout the British Empire. The largest volunteer units were the 10th and 16th (Irish) Divisions, composed mostly of Irish Catholics, and the 36th (Ulster) Division, composed almost entirely of Protestants from the North. Many soldiers had been members of the nationalist and loyalist militias and went off to the trenches fighting for different causes. The Ulster Protestants fought for King, Country and Empire and to remain British while

the mostly Catholic Irish fought for their own country: Ireland. Casualties in these divisions were staggering even by the standards of the Great War. Irish soldiers died by the thousands on the Western Front and at Gallipoli. On July 1, 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, the Ulster Division suffered over 4900 casualties (2000 killed). Thousands of families on both sides of the Irish conflict were left to grieve.

In April 1916, several hundred Irish separatists who had refused to join Britain's war, staged an uprising in Dublin. The "Easter Rising" was crushed within a week by British forces, but the subsequent execution of its leaders—including the celebrated activist Sir Roger Casement—sparked outrage among the Irish people and generated sympathy for the rebels. In the 1918 parliamentary election, the formerly fringe separatist party *Sinn Féin* ("Ourselves alone") won a majority of Irish seats in the House of Commons on a platform of complete independence. In 1919, nationalists petitioned the delegates at the Paris Peace Conference, unsuccessfully, to recognize the Irish Republic.

In this atmosphere of heightened nationalism, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was formed from pre-war Irish militias, and began a campaign of terror against the government and police to convince Britain to leave Ireland and to achieve Irish independence. As the security situation in Ireland deteriorated, the British government sent demobilized British soldiers returning from the war to shore up the beleaguered Royal Irish Constabulary. These soldiers, many of whom were hardened veterans of the trenches, were disdainful of the Irish and extremely brutal in their treatment of the civilian population. At the end of 1921, after a bloody guerrilla war between the IRA and British forces, a truce was declared and the provisional Irish government agreed to a treaty with Britain. Ireland would now be styled the Irish Free State, an autonomous region within the British Empire. The six counties in Ulster with Protestant majorities were allowed to remain in the Union. To this day Northern Ireland remains a province of the United Kingdom, separate from the Irish Republic.

Awards & Honors

IN THE GREAT WAR, most countries issued awards and decorations for participation in specific campaigns, and in some cases, for individual heroism in combat. Medals like the French *Croix de Guerre* (War Cross) (see case, #16), the German *Eiserne Kreuz* (Iron Cross) (#12), the US Distinguished Service Cross, the British Military Cross, and the Italian *Croce al Merito di Guerra* (War Merit Cross) were given for acts of valor.

This however does not mean that in all cases they are rare. For example, the Iron Cross, 2nd class, had at the start of the war been awarded to German soldiers only for acts of great bravery. Toward the end of the war, the medal was awarded much more freely by a German High Command desperate to keep morale from collapsing amid acute shortages of food and supplies. The wide distribution of this medal for bravery, in lieu of basic supplies, offended some soldiers who had been fighting since the start of the war and actually worsened the morale that it was meant to improve. Over four million Iron Crosses, 2nd class, were awarded.



Eiserne Kreuz (Iron Cross), 2nd Class, Germany.

After the Armistice, many countries began to issue medals to honor those who had served in the war, both as combatants and noncombatants. In 1919, the Allied powers decided that each country should issue a commemorative victory medal. Britain, in addition to its Victory Medal (#3), issued other campaign medals. The two most widely distributed were the British War Medal (#2) and the 1914/15 “Mons” Star, (#1, 4) the

latter named for the first battle in 1914 in which the British Expeditionary Force fought.



1914 “Mons” Star, British War Medal, and Victory Medal. Image courtesy of the Imperial War Museum (OMD1008).

Decades later in the United States, the Army Occupation of Germany Medal was instituted for service in Germany or Austria between 1919 and 1923. The profile (below) is of Gen. John J. “Blackjack” Pershing, Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Force. This special campaign medal, was authorized by Congress on November 21, 1941, to be awarded retroactively to soldiers who had been part of the European occupation after the Great War. The medal was a sign of the growing anti-German sentiment in America during its period of neutrality in the Second World War. It is the only American military medal ever to bear the image of a person still alive at the time. Seventeen days after it was issued, the United States went to war with Germany and Japan.



Loss & Remembrance

THE GREAT WAR is remembered for inflicting casualties on an unprecedented scale. Indeed, the human cost of the war is incalculable. Approximately seventy million people were mobilized in the various armed forces around the world. General consensus places the number of military deaths around nine million (12.9 percent of the total mobilized and an average of 6000 killed per day). Death rates varied according to military specialty; aviators and infantrymen (junior officers especially) were more likely to be killed in action than artillerymen or supply and logistics personnel. Civilian deaths range between six and seven million. Although these numbers will always be estimates, their size and uncertainty reflect the totality and chaos experienced in this war.

The early battles along the Western Front—Mons, Marne, Aisne, and 1st Ypres—took an enormous toll on the armies of both sides. By the end of 1914, the British Expeditionary Force—the professional army that had been in France at the start of the fighting—was virtually

wiped out. In desperate need of reinforcements, Britain turned to volunteer recruits at home and from across the empire. When volunteers were not enough, conscription was enacted in Britain in March 1916 and in Canada in March 1917. In the latter case, it was vehemently opposed by many French Canadians and riots erupted in Québec. Armies elsewhere in the empire remained volunteer forces but there was often great social pressure placed on young men to join up.

In an attempt to increase enlistment early in the war, the British Secretary for War, Lord Kitchener, called for the creation of “Pals Battalions.” These locally recruited units encouraged relatives, schoolmates,

coworkers and friends to join together and serve in the same companies and platoons. Kitchener believed that this would preserve unit morale and cohesion and instill greater fighting spirit. However, the appalling casualties in the great offensives of trench warfare led to many communities and families losing a substantial portion of their young men in the most sudden and devastating way. The exhibition contains a collection of regimental badges worn by officers and enlisted men from across Britain and the British Empire. Casualty figures for specific regiments are included where available. Over one million soldiers from Britain and the British Empire perished in the war and a further 2.5 million were wounded.



The Tower of London during the “Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red” exhibit in 2014 for the centenary of the start of the Great War.

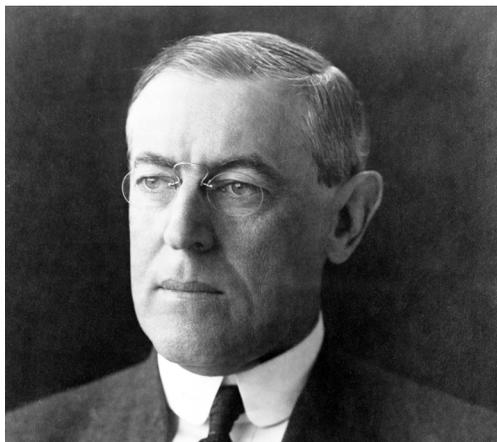
Since 1921, the poppy has been a symbol of remembrance of those who died in the First World War, especially in Britain and the Commonwealth. The red poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) is a common agricultural weed in Europe and after the war grew quickly over the battlefields of Belgium and France, sites that contained the

remains of thousands of missing soldiers. Its use as a symbol of remembrance was inspired by the 1915 poem “In Flanders Fields” by Canadian army doctor and war casualty Lt. Col. John McCrae.

The ceramic poppy displayed in the exhibition was part of a major art project by Paul Cummins and Tom Piper titled “Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red.” Between July 17 and November 11, 2014, thousands of ceramic poppies progressively filled the Tower of London’s famous moat until there were 888,246 on the final day—Remembrance Day in Britain and the Commonwealth. Each poppy represents a British service member killed during the war.

The Aftermath

WHEN THE GUNS fell silent on November 11, 1918, the world had to reckon fully with the unprecedented destruction and trauma that had been wrought during the previous four and a half years. In many ways, the postwar world experienced greater turmoil and uncertainty than during the war years as it dealt with political, economic and social forces that had been unleashed by the conflict and which would change the world forever.



Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States.
Image courtesy of Library of Congress (3a04218)

The Treaty of Versailles, signed on June 28, 1919, effectively ended the Great War. US President Woodrow Wilson was a major figure during the negotiations. In addition to increasing its international political stature, the United States emerged as the world's strongest economic power, becoming the primary lender to Germany and other European countries trying to rebuild. The Treaty required Germany to accept culpability for the war, to disarm, to pay reparations, and to cede significant territory along its border regions. One of the stipulations was the Allied occupation of the German Rhineland, in which the Americans participated.

Postwar Europe was ripe for revolution. Monarchies were overthrown in Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary (no longer one country) and Turkey and were replaced with republics. Many people hoped for freer and

more representative governments. Yet some citizens had also become deeply cynical about liberal politics and democratic institutions and began to support political parties on the extreme right and left. A major constituency for these parties were disillusioned veterans of the war. Unrest and political chaos were common features throughout Europe. Ireland experienced a bitter war for independence while Russia saw the establishment of the world's first communist state arising from the Bolshevik seizure of power in late 1917. The resulting civil war between the "Red" and "White" Russians lasted until 1922 and claimed the lives of up to ten million people. In Germany, the humiliating terms of the peace combined with food shortages and a hyperinflation crisis in 1923 wrecked the economy and caused a loss of faith in the nascent Weimar Republic among much of the population. Apart from politics, the war contributed to a sense of cultural pessimism and a rejection of earlier social values. It also led to bold and innovative new forms in art, music, literature and intellectual life.



Bolshevik poster, 1920. Image courtesy of *Russia's Civil War* by Geoffrey Swain.

The turmoil was not limited to Europe. Millions of soldiers who had fought in the war had been drawn from European colonies, most notably British India and French Africa. Many more people in the colonies had been subjected to grueling labor and food shortages to support the war effort. The spirit of national self-determination heralded in Paris in 1919 was felt strongly in the colonies. Egyptians staged a revolution against the British while the newly acquired British mandate of Iraq experienced major unrest. British India, which had provided the largest volunteer army of the war, saw the start of massive civil disobedience that would eventually lead to its independence. Nationalists throughout Africa and Asia viewed the war as a repudiation of the supposed superiority of Western civilization and demanded greater freedoms from colonial powers.

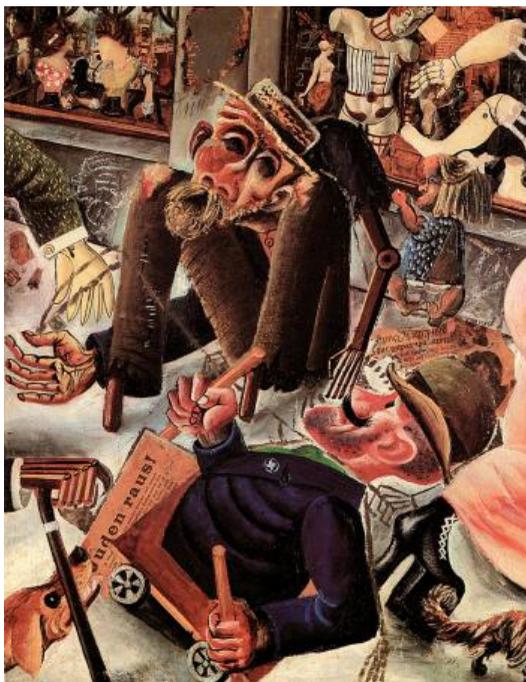
Other countries outside of Europe experienced a national awakening as well. Self-governing regions of the British Empire called dominions sent a large portion of their young men to fight and many of them did not return. Dominions such as Canada and Australia, which in 1914 had viewed themselves primarily as loyal subjects of the British Empire, emerged from the war with a new sense of nationhood. The war drew together people from over great distances who otherwise would have never encountered each other. In the ANZAC forces, men from Sydney and Perth mixed with Tasmanians and Queenslanders. In the Canadian Expeditionary Force soldiers from Ontario and Québec fought with Newfoundlanders and men from the prairie provinces.

City boys mixed with farmers, ranchers and fishermen. The terrible losses suffered at battles like Gallipoli and Vimy Ridge helped forge a new national spirit in these countries that continues to this day.

The war also had a transformative effect on the condition of women and their roles in society. The conscription of millions of men depleted the labor force in the factories and fields at a time when they were needed most. Women filled these positions and performed jobs usually restricted to men. Their wages allowed many to become financially independent while work away from home gave them increasing freedom from social limitations normally imposed by their families and local communities. Thousands more women volunteered as nurses both at home and at the front. At the end of the war women in Britain and the United States received the vote, after decades-long suffrage campaigns in both countries. Furthermore, the shortage of marriageable men resulting from war casualties led many single women to seek fulfillment in careers and pursuits outside the traditional roles

of wife and mother. Changing attitudes toward gender in the 1920s were a reflection of these new realities.

The Great War of 1914-18 was often called the “war to end all wars” in the hope that, since the costs borne by victor and vanquished alike were so terrible, war in the modern age would no longer be a viable means of settling differences among nations. The Great War did not end war, but instead unleashed forces and created change that could not be undone and that in many ways shaped the world in which we live today.



Prager StraÙe (1920) by German painter Otto Dix portrays homeless and disabled veterans who are ignored by society. A newspaper reads *Juden Raus!* (“Jews Out!”), showing the increasing anti-Semitism that would later be exploited by German National Socialism (Nazism). Image courtesy of the Otto Dix Project.

Parable of the Old Man and the Young

*So Abram rose, and clave the wood, and went,
And took the fire with him, and a knife.
And as they sojourned both of them together,
Isaac the first-born spake and said, My Father,
Behold the preparations, fire and iron,
But where the lamb for this burnt-offering?
Then Abram bound the youth with belts and straps,
and builded parapets and trenches there,
And stretchèd forth the knife to slay his son.
When lo! an angel called him out of heaven,
Saying, Lay not thy hand upon the lad,
Neither do anything to him. Behold,
A ram, caught in a thicket by its horns;
Offer the Ram of Pride instead of him.
But the old man would not so, but slew his son,
And half the seed of Europe, one by one.*

2nd Lt. Wilfred Owen

Killed in action November 4, 1918



they change somewhat from contact with other men, a different ~~mass~~ of people, and a different country. In other words you have not only broadened out yourself but have been able to help me also thru your letters. It has meant a great deal to me.

Being in camp has certainly helped David Bridge a lot. He talked at League last night, and he seems like quite a different fellow both in appearance + speech. As Grace says "He is human now." He spoke of some things which you have been writing, such as tolerance of things in other men that you could not tolerate in your own life, and a sympathy ^{with} & understanding of them which you had never had before. He told some very interesting tales of camp life, and wasn't nearly as

"Dear, I am so glad that you can express yourself so well in your letters, because it helps me to keep up with your thoughts and ideals as they change somewhat from contact with other men, a different people, and a different country. In other words you have not only broadened out yourself but have been able to help me also thru your letters. It has meant a great deal to me.

Being in camp has certainly helped David [a friend who also enlisted] a lot. He talked at League last night, and he seems like quite a different fellow both in appearance and speech. As Grace says "He is human now." He spoke of some things which you have been writing, such as tolerances of things in other men that you could not tolerate in your own life, and a sympathy with and understanding of them which you never had before."

Ruth Odell to Sgt. Morgan S. Odell,
Pasadena, CA, January 9, 1919



The Great War 100 Years Later:
The College, the Country and the World
A Centenary Exhibition

Researched, written, and designed by:

David Campion (History)

Sten Eccles-Irwin ('16)

Emma Hoch-Schneider ('16)

Nicolas Read ('18)

With assistance from:

Zachariah Selley

College Archivist

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