

NOTES



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## TRENCH DOGS - STUDY GUIDE



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"Beautiful watercolors, horrible war." - Alec McGovern



## INTRODUCTION

Ian Densford, Summer 2018, NY.

This book was mostly inspired the journals of a French barrel maker Louise Barthas, who served in the frontline trenches for all four years of WW1, collected in *Poilu*, translated by Edward Strauss. He was a humorous writer, though he stumbles from horror to horror, who provided a Socialist & anti-war perspective that stood in stark contrast to other narratives like *Storm of Steel*. Great inspiration also came from Dan Carlin's Hardcore History Podcast, the Blueprint for Armageddon episodes. Trench Dogs is anti-war at its heart, as the bodycount hints.

This book is based upon actual events & hundreds of photo, film & illustrated references. It is meant to showcase events & introduce subjects from a soldier's view at the front, not the politics & territorial gains from a broader overview. This studyguide is to help decipher the events depicted, but further research is always needed.

## COVER IMAGE

Hans Larwin, "Soldier and Death" 1917.

Oil on canvas.

Hans Larwin was an official war painter for the Austria-Hungary monarchy.

A classic artistic practice is to copy techniques & composition from previous works.

The journalists & artists who were on the front lines had a similar vantage point as the soldiers, & conveyed those experiences.

This painting has an especially creepy & magical narrative that I wanted to include.



## ROLL CALL

p iii

Introduction of Armies

These are the nations represented in Trench Dogs, though many more participated in the war (such as Algeria, Senegal, Indochina & others), including numerous civilian labor groups, & even resistance fighters, like in Armenia. The Spanish Flu (H1N1 influenza) added to the tremendous amount of death. By 1919, some 16 M people would be dead, a previously unimaginable number.

I chose to depict animal characters for a few reasons: it's a fun way to represent the different armies, it's interesting to juxtapose something cute & fun with something horrible & disturbing, and it connects to a motif that runs through all of cartoon history, ie Felix the Cat, Krazy Kat, Merry Melodies, HannaBarbara, Busy Town, Maus ...

## CONTINUE THE STORY

### ALICE PAUL

Feminist, Suffragist & Activist for Women's equal rights, picketing, protesting, challenging President Wilson, & even going to prison for her cause. She helped fight for the 19th Amendment until 1920 & pushed further with the Equal Rights Amendment until it finally passed in 1972.

### LUCY BURNS

Suffragist & Women's rights advocate, working with groups like the National American Women Suffrage Association until she formed the National Women's Party, a more militant group, alongside Alice Paul.

### IDA B. WELLS

Journalist, Feminist & Abolitionist, she led an anti-lynching campaign in the 1890s & onward, challenging Presidents McKinley & Wilson on issues of racism & discrimination. She was a celebrated reporter & editorial writer, voicing a much needed Black narrative in an era of Jim Crow oppression. She organized economic boycotts, setting standards for civil rights protests, & helped found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) & the National Association of Colored Women. (NACP).

### VIRGINIA WOOLF

Author & Essayist, one of the most important modernist writers & feminist, pioneering the use of stream of consciousness. While navigating mental-illness throughout her life, she is applauded for her views on women's rights & gender roles, while less sensitive to class, social & cultural differences.

### GRIGORI RASPUTIN

Self-proclaimed monk, mystic & healer, he became close with the Russian Royal Family by way of their hemophiliac son. He was a nuisance to the royal court & was assassinated in 1916. (Hellboy continues his story well.)

### ALEISTER CROWLEY

Mythic, poet & writer, involved in various occult groups, later he founded Thelema, a religious order which attracted many followers. He was rumored to be a British spy.

### WEB DU BOIS

Historian, Sociologist, Civil Rights Activist & Author, he helped found the NAACP & was editor for the group's journal, *The Crisis*. His voice was a powerful part of the anti-discrimination & anti-war movements. The Civil Rights Act, which passed the year after his death, contained many of the reforms he sought.

### KING OLIVER

American Jazz musician, he played cornet in popular bands in New Orleans & in Chicago with Kid Ory's band, bringing the Dixieland sound to other areas. He developed many mute techniques & was mentor to Louis Armstrong, who credited him as responsible for helping shape modern Jazz.

### TE LAWRENCE

Archaeologist, diplomat & writer, he was part of British intelligence missions in the Middle East during WW1. He was a liaison for the British during the Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire, working closely with Emir Faisal. Also known as Lawrence of Arabia.

### FAISAL I

Third son of Hussein bin Ali, he helped lead the Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire & eventually became King Syria, & later Iraq. He promoted pan-Arab Nationalism, but cultural & religious divides, along with British intervention & French colonialism, made the area difficult to unite.

### THE THREE PASHAS

The Grand Vizier, Minister of War, & Minister of Navy, three senior officials who controlled the Ottoman Empire, bringing them into WW1 & allowing the Armenian Genocide to occur. After the war, all 3 were assassinated, & the Turkish War of Independence began.

### JRR TOLKIEN

Professor, Philologist & Author, he famously wrote the fantasy trilogy *Lord of the Rings*. A veteran of WW1, much of the imagery from his books came from his war experiences, including anti-industrialization / colonialism. The Inklings were his DnD group / book club.



## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### p 71 - 80

- Germany in WW1
- Trench Fights, pistols, bayonettes, grandes
- Snipers in WW1
- Early Tanks, types, abilities, improvements
- The Anti-Tank Rifle in WW1
- Fighting against tanks, tactics
- Photography & Journalism in WW1
- Prisoners of war, statistics & descriptions
- Chemical Warfare & Poison Gas in WW1
- History of IG Farben & Bayer
- First-hand account of advancing gas cloud

### p 81 - 90

- Gas Mask Story from "Poilu" & Hardcore Hist
- Effects of poison gas, descriptions
- Gas Masks, types, & horse variations
- Cavalry in WW1
- Stories of skirmishes in the gas
- Poison Gas residue
- Trench looting & intelligence gathering

### p 91 - 100

- Carrier Pigeons in WW1, transport
- Observation balloons & cameras
- Biplanes, advancements, variations
- Biplanes vs balloons
- Aerial Combat, dogfights, advancements
- Parachutes in WW1
- Manfred von Richthofen, the Red Baron
- The Flying Circus
- Fake Dogfight photos, great reference tho
- Zeppelins & dirigibles in WW1
- Italian mountaineers, photos

### p 101 - 110

- Mountaintop combat, photos
- Russia in WW1
- The Eastern Front
- Transport through the mountains, risks
- The Armenian Genocide
- Ottoman-Turkey in WW1
- Civilians at the front
- Russian casualties

### p 111 - 120

- Descriptions of wounded bodies piling up
- Descriptions of explosions in dense crowds
- Horses in WW1, statistics & casualties
- City combat in WW1

### p 121 - 130

- Flame Throwers in WW1
- Horse on Fire ref from "Jimbo", Gary Panter
- Armenian Resistance fighters
- Russia withdraws from WW1
- Thessaloniki, or Salonica
- The Bolshevik Revolution, propagand poster
- The United States of America in WW1
- Women factory workers & the YWCA, poster
- America production & sales to WW1 armies
- The USS Arizona & the Brooklyn Bridge Nyc
- Convoys & Aerial Escorts
- SS Airship & Submarine Bomber
- U Boats in WW1, interior photos

### p 131 - 140

- The Lusitania, facts & propaganda
- Unrestricted submarine warfare
- Propaganda poster of woman & child
- The sinking of the Jeremiah Jones

### p 141 - 150

- Q ships in WW1
- Prize rules, meaning & use
- The Baralong incident
- Signal flags, VICQRA
- The Battle of Jutland & the Fog of War

### p 151 - 160

- John Cornwell, "Boy Hero" 16, HMS Chester
- HMS Indefatigable explodes, 2 survivors, excellent excerpt in Hardcore Hist pcast
- "SMS Seydlitz at Jutland" by Claus Bergen
- The Harlem Hellfighters arrive in Europe
- James Reese Europe & the HH Jazz Band
- Black-American troops not allowed to fight

### p 161 - 175

- Unfair treatment/ racism in US forces
- Black-American troops transferred to French
- the 369th Infantry is formed, the Rattlers
- HH combat statistics, casualties, awards
- Needham Roberts & Henry Johnson
- Grave sites & War Memorials in Europe
- HH return home & NYC Parade
- The Red Summer of 1919, racism & riots
- The Elaine, Arkansas massacre & Elaine 12
- Trolley car photo, & Resistance in DC
- Will Brown & Omaha, Nebraska, photos
- The Rise of the KKK after WW1
- Reflection

## BRITISH ENLISTMENT POSTER

### p 01

Parliamentary Recruiting Committee, 1915.  
Color lithograph.

"The moment the order came to go forward, there were smiling faces everywhere."

General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, letter written in the trenches of Aisne.

Note the street sweeper on the bottom right, an older dog with obvious war wounds, compared to the excitement and interest of the rest of the crowd.



## WW1 BEGINS

### p 02

### Dates and Stats

World War One officially began on July 28, 1914, when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. One month prior, on June 28, the Duke Francis Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo by Gavrilo Princip, member of the Black Hand. The war ended on November 11, 1918, with the signing of the Armistice, and later the Treaty of Versailles.

Near 65 Million troops were deployed, and 20 M were wounded. Over 18 M died in the conflict, with around 6 M of those being civilians. Over 8 M horses died as well. The Spanish Flu added another 16 M dead. A total of over 180 Billion dollars was spent. And WW2 would begin just 23 years later...



## COLONIAL TROOPS

### p 16

Indian Troops from the Punjab in France, 1917. Photo ©ECPAD, Collection (Jean-Baptiste) Tournassoud. Many Colonial armies were mobilized, including nearly 1.5 Million soldiers from India, who fought for Britain in Europe, North Africa and the Mediterranean. Known for their cavalry units and silent knife wielding trench-raids, these soldiers were typically underpaid, despite their bravery. Nearly 90,000 died, and 67,000 wounded.

Often considered the forgotten part of the Great War, colonial troops played a major role in many theaters. Countries such as Algeria, Indochina, Morocco, Tunisia, Madagascar, Senegal & China lost vast amount of lives. Most of my research material came from a "Western" narrator, and it would have been more interesting if I had been more inclusive. It is worth understanding the effort and loss that every group endured.







### CROWDED TRENCHES

p 25

Joe Sacco, "The Great War".  
Norton & Company, 2013.

Sacco's WW1 comic is actually a 24 foot long image, accordion style book, which reads like a single tracking shot or panorama of the war's frontline. The detailed imagery of the Battle of the Somme, especially the vehicles and supplies etc, are breathe taking; it truly helps to convey the huge scale and mass chaos that was experienced.



I wanted this panel to serve as a nod to that amazing book, which was a great reference, as the artist did an incredible amount of research.

### HOSPITAL TENT

p 27

John Singer Sargent, "Interior of Hospital Tent".  
Imperial War Museum, Watercolor, 1928.

Sargent was a war artist, illustrating various scenes as a journalist, when he caught the flu and spent a week in a field hospital, where he created this painting.

I used many paintings as part of my reference pool. The artists helped capture certain aspects & moments.



### FACE MASKS

p 27

Anna Coleman Ladd, Portrait Masks Studio, Paris.  
Newspaper clipping, 1918.

Thanks to improvements in medicine & practice, many soldiers survived ghastly injuries, but were left with horrible scars. Those who had facial injuries sometimes wore sculpted masks, each uniquely created to match the wearer's features.



"Tin Nose Shops" were an interesting solution to a new problem. This detail from the war helps frame the time period, another aspect of the new era that was then emerging.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### Cover & Roll Call

- "Soldier & Death", painting by Hans Larwin
- Participating Armies, pictured & missing
- "the Spanish Flu"
- Death count & Legacy, everyday meaning

#### p 01 - 10

- Enlistment poster & observing citizens
- WW1 dates
- Great Britain in WW1
- Nurses collecting soldiers' letters
- War's effect on landscape & citizens
- Belgians fleeing initial German invasion
- Bicycle troops
- Destroyed cities
- Supplies & Ammunition statistics, depots
- Horse drawn carriages & transportation
- Automobile ambulances, volunteers
- Artillery units, techniques & advancements
- Statistics on shells used per day / battle

#### p 11 - 20

- Artillery bombardment descriptions
- Creeping barrage
- The Lewis machine gun
- Military hierarchy & opinions held by British compared to French vs German vs Russian ...
- Rats & general conditions in the trenches
- Indian colonial troops
- Buried by an explosion
- Wire cutters & Barbed wire
- Machine gun nests & changing tactics

#### p 21 - 30

- The battlefield & No Man's land at night
- Stretcher bearers, medics & the Red Cross
- Flares in WW1
- Medics sharing items in No Man's Land
- Crowded trenches, Joe Sacco's comic
- Field hospitals & first-hand descriptions
- Triage & Medicine in WW1
- Doctors & Nurses in WW1
- Treating the wounded & Burn victims
- Face Masks for disfigurements
- Anna Coleman Ladd & sculpting studios
- Surgery in WW1
- Transporting the wounded & Hospital trains
- The Homefront, British vs German etc
- On Leave from the war, Nurses & Soldiers
- Votes for Women & the Suffragettes
- Wounded veterans at home

#### p 31 - 40

- Women Workers, Bus Attendant etc
- Peach Stone collections & purpose
- Veterans rehab & prosthetic limbs
- Propaganda posters, British vs German etc
- Switchboard operators & the "Hello Girls"
- Amputations during WW1
- Early Airplanes tactics, pilot's weapons
- Motorcycle ambulances
- Camel ambulances
- North Africa & Camel riders
- Motorcycle units

#### p 41 - 50

- France in WW1
- French morale & Solialism
- "Poilu", edited diary by Louis Barthas
- Building & maintaining trenches
- Trench Mortars
- The Telephone & Radio in WW1
- Wire spools & the Signal Corps
- Officer life in the trenches, comparisons
- Charges across No Man's Land
- Trench Battles, first-hand accounts, newspaper stories, paintings, photos
- Stuck in a shellhole, "Storm of Steel" & "All Quiet on the Western Front" excerpts
- Return from No Man's Land

#### p 51 - 60

- Kitchen Runners & food containers/ kits
- Barbed Wire maintenance & equipment
- Meals in the trenches
- Rat catching & displays, photos
- Early Armored Vehicles
- Traffic jams in WW1, causes & descriptions
- Horse vs Vehicle transportation
- Weather in WW1
- Passchendaele, Ypres
- Descriptions of deep muddy fields, corpse filled shellholes, & sinking debris pits
- Falling into a muddy crater, description

#### p 61 - 70

- Sewage & Water bailing in the trenches
- Duckboards & maintenance
- Description of a soldier slowly sinking
- Field kitchens & cooks
- Kitchen supplies, transport, maintenance
- Description of a direct shell hit on a body
- Timed attacks & tactics





### ALL TOGETHER

p 174

Utagawa Kuniyoshi, 1847.

Woodblock print, Fujioka-ya Hikotarô, Japan. "At first glance he looks fierce, but he is really a nice person." A Gather Together image, I borrowed this idea to help depict the loss & horror from the war, a larger form made from dead comrades.

I directly copied the original for promotional material, but chose a different corpse-golem pose for the ending of the book. It's meant to symbolize the mixed emotions after WW1, of duty & bravery against loss & discrimination.

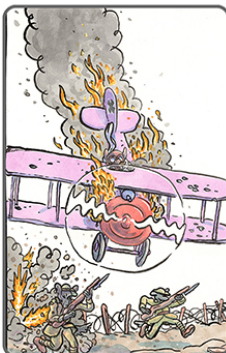
### PORCO POSTER

p 178

Siegmund von Suchodolski. Lithograph, 1918. Rehse Archiv für Zeitgeschichte und Publizistik.

The original poster depicts a British plane in flames, the text reads "German air war booty exhibition," which was most likely a war rally to raise funds & morale, held in Munich, 1918.

Miyazaki's comics & vehicles are certainly an inspiration for me & my work, so this was my little Porco Rosso tribute. This was also an alternate cover image.



### ILLUSTRATORS

& PAINTERS

p 179

"Bramme, Village on the Mosel" J. Andre Smith. 1918, Pencil & charcoal, Nat Mus of Amer Hist. Journalists & artists were sent into the war to help tell the story & capture intimate events. These, along with first hand accounts, were true to the experiences, & help tell the story alongside all the statistics & bodycounts.

The "combat artists" are perhaps the most interesting aspect of WW1 to me. This final image serves as both a nod to them & my pretending to be a part of their unit 100 years later. RIP

### HISTORY WITH MARK BIELSKI

historywithmarkbielski.com/wwi/trench-dogs  
0:34 min interview where we discuss many aspects & details from the book.

### COMICS WORKBOOK REVIEW

comicsworkbook.com/09-13-2018

Great write up with appropriate comic references & layout considerations.

### WORKING WOMEN

p 30-33

68% of Women had changed jobs by 1917.

Due to labor shortages, Women took up jobs that were typically unavailable, such as factory workers, push cart vendors, mechanics, buses attendants & more. Many also volunteered as nurses in the Red Cross or YWCA.

WW2 is better known for Women rights, (ie Rosie the Riveter), but it is important to appreciate its deeper roots, which were part of the Suffragette movement.



### WOMEN IN COMMUNICATIONS

p 33

Pershing's appeal late 1917, Veteran Status 1978.

The "Hello Girls" were a group of American women, who had worked as telephone switch operators for the Bell Communication Company, & had volunteered to travel to France in order to improve lacking operations under the US Army Signal Corps. Stationed in Paris, the new operators had to speak French, & were an average age of 25. A few women of note were sisters Louise & Raymonde LeBreton, Oleda Joure, & Merle Egan-Anderson.



Initially the women were denied veteran status, & Merle fought for decades in court to eventually obtain the recognition as the first US Army Women Veterans.

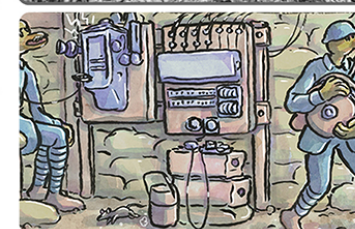
### TELEPHONES

p 42

German operating a field telephone post.

Signal personnel carried large spools of wire, laying landlines that would connect forward artillery observers with the artillery gunners behind them, or a divisional headquarters to the troops in front. Soldiers had a compact telephone set that fit into a small box or shoulder bag. Signalers often had to replace wires that were damaged from explosions, usually under fire.

Pigeons were by far the most successful means of communication. Hand written notes carried by soldiers were relied upon when cables had been disconnected, but these runners were typically killed during battles & the message would be lost. Radios were also in use, but were far less reliable.







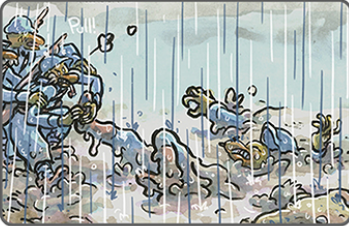
#### MUDDY PASSCHENDAELE

p 55 - 62

Dan Carlin, Hardcore History Podcast  
ep 54: "Blueprint for Armageddon V."  
04:06:00 - 04:12:28.

This segment of the podcast provides several quotes from first hand accounts, describing the muddy conditions soldiers had to endure at the Third Ypres.

Rain for days on end made what was already Hell on Earth just that much worse. Descriptions of flooded shell holes full of garbage, debris & rotting bodies. There was risk of being pulled under by the weight of your own gear, & many who fell wounded into a ditch would later drown if they were not rescued quickly.



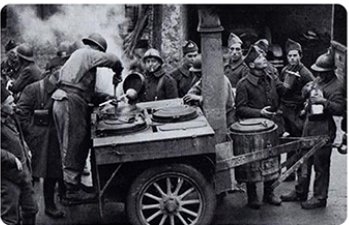
#### DROWNING IN MUD

p 62

Dan Carlin, Hardcore History Podcast  
ep 54: "Blueprint for Armageddon V."  
04:06:00 - 04:12:28.

"... we found a man bogged to his knees ... and when two days later they passed down that way, the wretched fellow was still there, but only his head was now visible, and he was raving mad."  
- quote from a British Major, To End All Wars, Adam Hochschild.

The war had all sorts of horrors & waking nightmares; a slow, sinking death where no one can help you is certainly unique.



#### FIELD KITCHEN

p 63

Ring the Dinner Bell.

Behind every army, supplies were being moved & coordinated with the changing battlefield. Field kitchens & cooking camps had to be set up or taken down on a regular basis. Rotating groups of soldiers had to be fed as often as possible, while mess kits & larger containers were used to deliver food to troops in nearby trenches. Coffee & booze were crucial.

Some food realted content from WW1: Maconochie tins or Bully Beef, Donuts, Rum Rations, Iron Rations, Huntley & Palmer Biscuits, Red Cross Cakes, Goulash Cannon.



#### RED SUMMER: OMAHA

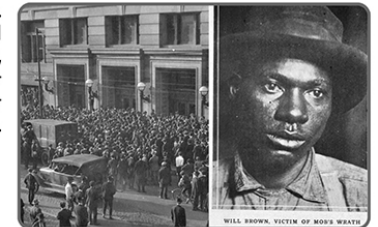
p 170

September 28-29, 1919.

Douglas County Court House, Omaha, Nebraska.

Another report of a sexual assault by a black man on a white woman caused white crowds to mob the court-house & jail, demanding that Will Brown, who had been arrested earlier, be released into their control. After hours of seige like conditions, where the police & mayor were threatened extensively, the officials released Brown to the angry mob who cruelly hanged him nearby.

Reports state his body was destroyed in various cruel ways & the court was burned. The riot continued & grew, stores were looted & many police officers were shot at through the night. Afterwards, 120 were arrested, but all were released & none were imprisoned longterm.



#### RED SUMMER:

OMAHA

p 171

"I am innocent, I never did it. My God, I am innocent."  
-Will Brown, as the mob took him.



As a white male, it's important to be honest & open about the history of this country, especially when it comes to the racism, slavery & segregation of the past AND today. This disgusting photo is the naked truth about whites in the United States & is crucial to understanding the bigotry that exists. Look at those smiles. Remember this picture, it is highly symbolic of our past. Will Brown was a human, that is his body engulfed in flames while they laugh. Social movements like Black Lives Matter are continuing the cause for Civil Rights today, & rightly so. It is only after we are honest about our past that change & reconciliation can take place.

#### KKK IN AMERICA

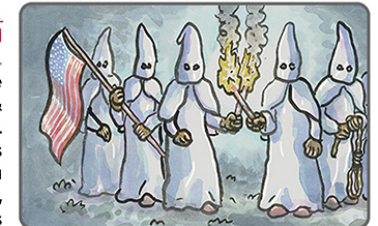
p 171

A bunch of dummies.

According to the Haynes Report, between 1889-1918, there had been over 3,000 lynchings, with state governments & police unwilling to stop or prosecute these horrible acts. 3,000 people/ 29 yrs = 104 people/ yr = 1 person/ 3.5 days

The Klan was initially established in the 1860s & saw a resurgence during the 1920s with millions of members, seemingly a response to the war. The practice of cross burning soon began, as did the erecting of more Confederate Civil War statues, many built from 1900-1920s.

Again, it's important to be honest about our past & these dummies are a sad slice of American History :|





**RED SUMMER: CHICAGO**  
p 168

July 27 - August 03, 1919.

A black teenager was stoned to death & drowned for accidentally swimming in a white-segregated beach, starting a riot that lasted a week, killing 38 & injuring 500+, with over 1,000 black families left homeless when much of their neighborhoods were burned down.

WEB Du Bois was an active voice in equal rights & encouraged returning veterans to help the cause. Many of the riots were anti-black violence enacted by whites, or were from defense against the same white aggression, lynchings, Jim Crow laws, & discrimination. Riots occurred in over 25 cities across the country.



**RED SUMMER: WASHINGTON DC**  
p 168

July 19 - 23, 1919.

A reported sexual assault on a white woman by a black man caused four days of rioting, where groups of whites beat innocent black people, some pulled from passing street cars, & destroyed their businesses. Police did not save or intervene, so some black citizens took up arms, building barricades & protecting their neighborhoods. 15 people were killed, but were mostly white, & 2 were even police officers. Woodrow Wilson sent in troops to stop the violence, but a rainstorm finally ended things.



**RED SUMMER: ARKANSAS & THE ELAINE 12**  
p 168

September 30 - October 01, 1919.

A meeting of local black farmers led to an event that killed a white man & erupted into a giant massacre, killing over 200 innocent black citizens, which included women & children. The brutality was condoned by local government as the initial meeting was deemed "a socialist plot to murder whites." An equally ridiculous trial found 79 black men from Elaine guilty of conspiring & sentenced another 12 to death, by an all white jury, as black people were not allowed to vote, hold office, or serve on a jury. Their verdicts were later overturned.

WEB Du Bois was a voice of outrage for this nightmare. No whites were found guilty or imprisoned longterm.

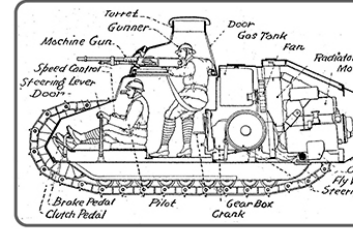


**TANKS**  
p 72 - 77

Renault FT, French.

Being part of a tank crew was dirty work, the cramped spaces were uncomfortable and filled with fumes from the engine, which was deafening when combined with the tanks movement & vibrations. Crew members often wore protective masks or ear coverings. Tanks moved very slow and had limited visibility, and even lacked a radio; pigeons were used instead.

I referred to an illustrated diagram for the interior view.



**ANTI-TANK RIFLE**  
p 73 - 75

1918, German.

The Mauser T-Gewehr was similar to elephant guns of the era, used for big-game hunting. The rifle shot a 13mm round that was armor piercing, and was famous for a potentially bone breaking recoil. The gun usually had a two man team, and made use of a bipod for steady aiming, as the rifle was quite large.

The large rifle was unable to penetrate the thicker armor of the British Mark IV, but was quite useful against lighter tanks.

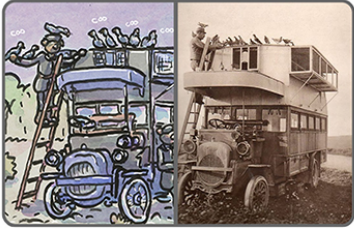
**POISON GAS**  
p 78 - 89

"Men were caught by fumes and in dreadful agony, coughing and vomiting, rolling on the ground..."  
2nd Lt Ernest Shephard, Dorset Rgmt, May 01, 1915

All sides would both use & suffer from poison gas; near 190,000 tons manufactured for WW1. It is estimated some 88,500 people died this way, over half of them Russian. Carl Duisberg, head of German chemical company Bayer, proposed the use of poison gases in battle, like chlorine. French scientist Victor Grignard developed phosgene gas, which caused nearly 80% of the total gas deaths. Mustard gas would cause blistering of the skin, lungs, & eyes, with a lasting or temporary blindness, though amazingly was rarely deadly. It would also leave an oily residue on the ground lasting for weeks, making it dangerous to walk upon or disturb. Somewhat simple & ineffective at first, subsequent versions of the gas mask greatly improved, & were even issued to horses.







### CARRIER PIGEONS

p 92

Nearly 500,000 pigeons were used to deliver messages, with an estimated 95% success rate, some becoming quite famous for their feats, even being awarded the Legion d'Honneur. Pigeons were transported in special baskets or wire cages, some simple enough to be carried by a signaler, others larger on the back of a motorcycle, or an entire repurposed lorry with a roof-top pigeon coop.

### BI-PLANES

p 93 - 99

These photos are actually recreations by a veteran pilot/special effects tech Wesley David Archer, & his wife Betty.

Aerial Dogfights only became common after machine guns were mounted, early pilots only had hand pistols, or dropped bombs & large darts. The cockpit was open to the wind & weather at great heights, so pilots had to dress warmly & wear goggles. Typically planes were for reconnaissance, or attacks on ground troops & observation balloons. Aerial combat evolved from solo flights to assembled squadrons of fighter planes engaging in dogfights, some earning Ace status. Remarkably, pilots did not carry parachutes until 1918. The casualty rate for a pilot was quite high, and in certain areas they only had a two week life expectancy. Some famous pilots include Eugene Bullard & Charles Nungesser (Fr), Albert Ball (Br), Billy Bishop (Can), Eddie Rickenbacker (US), & of course...



### THE RED BARON & THE FLYING CIRCUS

p 96

The French Storks (Cigognes) were also well-known.

Oswald Boelcke was an early flying ace for Germany. He founded the first elite fighter squadron and helped establish combat principles, like attacking out of the sun, which he passed on to his fellow pilots. One such pilot was Manfred von Richthofen, known as the Red Baron. He formed his own elite squadron called the Flying Circus (Jagdgeschwader), known equally for their aces and brightly colored bi- or triplanes. Notably, Hermann Goering, a horrible leading Nazi in WW2, was a member of the Flying Circus. The Baron famously shot down British Ace pilot Major Lanoe Hawker in November 1916, shooting him in the head after a heated pursuit. In April 1918, he was shot dead while flying over British lines; he was 25, with 80 kills.

Snoopy, from Shultz's "Peanuts" comic, was a big fan.



### JAMES REESE EUROPE & THE HARLEM JAZZ BAND

p 159 & 165

Aboard the SS Stockholm.

Reese led the 15th regiment Jazz Band, which he had assembled personally, traveling to Puerto Rico to recruit extra talent. He composed many original pieces & was immensely well received in Europe, especially France, where the band toured & played both during & after the war. Sadly, Reese was murdered by another band mate, Herbert Wright, during a dispute in New York, 1919.



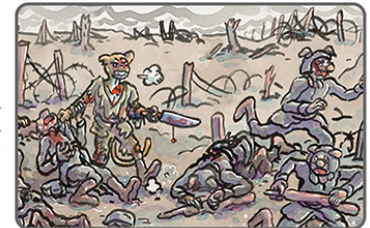
There are excerpts from two original songs by Reese: "All of No-Man's Land is Ours" & "On Patrol in No-Man's Land"

### JOHNSON & ROBERTS SKIRMISH

p 164

Aisne River at Bois d'Hauzy, May 15, 1918. Private Henry Johnson, 26, from Albany, NY, & Private Needham Roberts, 17, of Trenton NJ, from the 369th regiment's 1st Battalion, Company C, stood watch one night when nearly 24 German soldiers encountered the two, who fought hard & won. Both were gravely injured but survived & became the first American war heroes, & awarded the French Croix du Guerre.

This illustration was alongside a newspaper article by a notorious racist, who actually praised these soldiers actions, though his altered view would not convince the public of fairness or equality during the troops return.



### HARLEM "HELLFIGHTERS" 369TH / 15TH INFANTRY AWARDS & STATS

p 165

Their return parade after the war, marching up 5th Ave in NYC to Harlem, was significant & symbolic of the social changes of the era.

- 191 days of combat, never losing a foot of ground or prisoner taken
- First allied unit to reach the Rhine river
- 171 individual medals awarded
- almost 1500 casualties, highest of any regiment

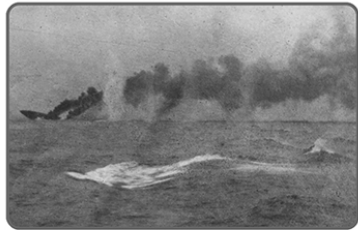
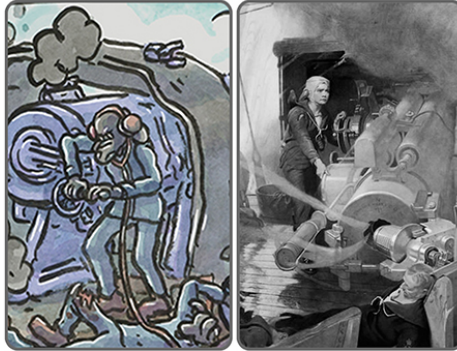
The Department of Defense posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to Henry Johnson in 2015, presented by Pres Barack Obama. He was also posthumously awarded the Purple Heart in 1996, & the Distinguished Service Cross in 2001.



**LONE GUNNER KID**  
p 152

Aboard the HMS Chester, Jutland.  
Boy 1st Class, Shielded 5.5inch Cannon.  
Jack Cornwell was a 16 year old boy who served as a sight setter for one of the deck guns. The Chester was hit many times during the battle, shrapnel killing or injuring those on deck. Jack was the only standing member of his team & continued to operate his cannon until the Chester's withdrawal. He died days later, & was awarded the Victoria Cross.

This was a very popular story at the time.



**HMS INDEFATIGABLE CROWS NEST SURVIVOR**  
p 153 - 154

Battlecruiser, crew of 1,019.  
There were only two survivors from this ship's sinking. The ship was struck in a magazine compartment, which completely destroyed the ship in giant explosions.

2:06:30 from Dan Carlin's Hardcore History Podcast - 53: Blueprint for Armageddon ep IV has some great descriptions from first hand accounts.

"There was a terrific explosion... I was 180 ft up & I was thrown clear of the ship."  
-Leading Signalman Charles Farmer, survivor



**KLAUS BERGEN PAINTING**  
p 157

SMS Derfflinger.  
The German ship survived the battle, but had the highest casualty rate with 157 men killed & 26 wounded. The ship was hit 17 times, one blast killing a turret crew of eighty men, but also helped sink two British Royal Navy ships: the Queen Mary & the Invincible.

The photos from the battle hardly compare to the drama & atmosphere of paintings like these, capturing the true feeling of the experience. Hell on the high seas!



**ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**  
p 103 - 108, 115

600,000 - 1 M Armenians died.  
Armenians fought on both sides of the Turkey & Russia Caucasus front. A complicated history of cultures in the region, & the Tehcir Law which allowed the relocation of any "deemed a national threat," led to their expulsion from Turkey in April/ May of 1915. Labeled pro-Russian traitors, entire villages were forced out, every male executed, the surviving women & children sent on a completely unprepared death-march towards Iraq & Syria. Often they would die of starvation or thirst, many were attacked by hostile Kurds along the road, only to end up in a refugee camp where they met disease & malnutrition. The Allied Nations did virtually nothing to intervene, though a few thousand were rescued by the French Mediterranean fleet in September 1915.



I included this portion to further emphasize the civilian casualties & impact felt from the war. Further genocides from the era were Pogroms beforehand, & the Holocaust afterwards. It has been a disgustingly common aspect of mankind.



**HORSE CASUALTIES**  
p 113

8+ Million died.  
Only about 1/4 horses were killed by enemy action, most died from "debility", meaning exposure to the weather, hunger, or illness.

Horses & laboring animals were a vital part of the war, but their own efforts & losses were equally important to the story & overall tragedy.

**HORSE ON FIRE**  
p 122

"Jimbo" by Gary Panter  
Pantheon 1988.

"Very little has been said about the horses & mules that were used & what they suffered is beyond all description." -Pvt James Robert Johnston, Horse Transport Driver, 14th Canadian Machine Gun Company, Riding into War

WW1 was apocalyptic to those involved, for which a galloping horse on fire is a great symbol of the suffering endured by all, especially the innocent & unwilling participants, humans & animals alike.





### RED ARMY POSTER

Artist Unknown, 1919.

Lithograph, Vsebovuch, Moscow.

"General military training training is a safe-guard for freedom." This poster is an appeal to farmers to join the Red Army during the civil war that was taking place in Russia.

The Russian Revolution is an epoch unto itself. I wanted to make a nod to the event & it served as a perfect exit for the Russian chapter. This poster had some great imagery, but there were many others to choose from. It was an interesting time to be an illustrator & I truly enjoy the style popular at the time.



### YWCA POSTER

p 124

Adolf Treidler, 1917.

Lithograph, NY American Lithograph Co.

"For every fighter a woman worker. United War Work Campaign. Care for Her through the YWCA." The Young Women's Christian Association helped women support the war effort at both home and abroad. The blue triangle was their symbol, they offered morale & mental "welfare", to help ease the suffering & trauma of soldiers.

The Russian chapter ends with a propaganda poster in red & the US chapter begins in blue, a nice balance of color & symbols.



### LUSITANIA POSTER

p 133

Fred Spear, 1915.

Lithograph, Boston Committee of Public Safety.

Propaganda posters often had illustrated scenes meant to stir the emotions of the viewer. Many are racist or silly in their depiction, some are violent & bloody. The Horse poster on p32 is another example of the variety of causes at play during the war.

It was an interesting image to borrow, but I thought it would be more powerful included as part of the scene it is meant to represent. It is a quiet & sad scene.



### U BOAT INTERIORS

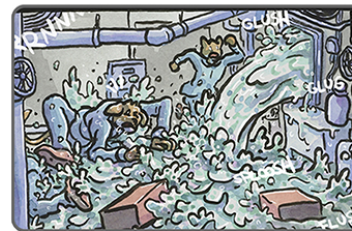
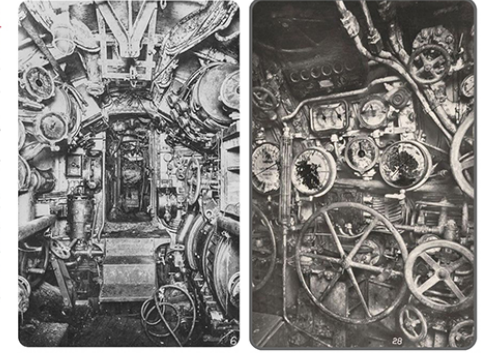
p 130

Photos potentially U110 interior.

Sunk July 19, 1918 by the HMS Garry.

All those creepy valves & pipes & gauges, I drew these pages my first day in Pittsburgh at the Comics Workbook Rowhouse Residency.

Being inside an underwater metal steampunk hulk looks like an actual waking nightmare, very appropriate for the horror show of WW1. These were some of my favorite images from the project & were fun to reinterpret.



### THE SINKING OF SS JACOB JONES

p 135 - 141

DD-61 Tucker class Destroyer

Sunk Dec 06, 1917, 66 died.

The Jacob Jones was the first US ship sunk in WW1. Torpedoed by U boat U53, it suffered further damage & loss of life when depth charges on board exploded.

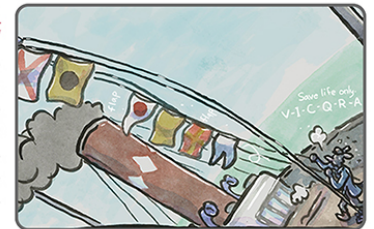
These panels explore the terror of drowning while trapped inside a sinking metal hull, full of comrades.

### THE BARALONG INCIDENT

p 142 - 147

Compiled from three different accounts.

British Q Ships were merchant class ships with hidden deck guns, used to surprise attack U Boats. The Baralong, or the USS "Ulysses S Grant", was a Q Ship that saved the Nicosian by sinking U27 & supposedly murdering its crew. Signal flags of rescue, V-I-C-Q-R-A or "Save Life Only", let the ship get close enough to target the submarine.



### THE BATTLE OF JUTLAND

p 148 - 158

May 31, 1916

8,600+ killed, 25 ships sunk.

One of the few naval encounters of the war, it is a very interesting series of events. After intercepting & decoding German messages (Room 40), the British fleet sets out & has repeated surprise encounters in the fog. Some very big explosions follow & the British learn "There seems to be something wrong with our bloody ships today."

-Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty