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THE GREAT WAR

Prize Essay by Miss Bertha O'Brien, St. Louis, Who Won the Major D. A. MacDonald Cup.

The immediate cause of the Great War, which broke out in 1914, was the assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand, of Austria. But the real cause, underlying all other apparent causes, was Germany's ambition to become a great world power.

In order to understand why so many countries entered the war, we must first study the relations of friendship or enmity, which existed between the different European nations.

The reason of Great Britain's entering the war, first, she had bound herself to protect Belgium's neutrality; second, she was a true friend to France by the Triple Entente and therefore would not abandon her in time of war; third, she entered in order to protect herself. England learned during the Boer War that it might easily happen, if a struggle arose, that most of the European nations would be against her. Up to this time she thought that on account of her isolated position, she could stand aloof from wars and be independent. But now she realized the danger of being attacked, were her fleet and army fighting away from home. Another cause of alarm was founded on the fact that Germany was enlarging her fleet and preparing to contest British supremacy on the seas.

It was during Edward VII's reign that England saw her danger and Edward, tactful and foreseeing, sought to make friends for his country. He visited France and Russia, entered into an agreement, called the Triple Entente, which was an understanding between these three countries that if any were attacked the others would help her.

Thus Germany was encircled by a chain of more or less allied nations, realizing to the full the danger of her position, she sought to strengthen the Triple Alliance and bind to herself in closer union the central powers of Austria and Hungary. Italy somewhat unwillingly also became a member of the Alliance. By this union these three countries agreed to help each other if any one were attacked.

Germany found occasions to make it plain that she wished to become a world power. The first opportunity for showing her desire presented itself in Morocco in 1905. Here France and Germany were disputing over some territory, and Germany got the better of the quarrel. Her second opportunity was in 1908 when Austria sought to extend her territory eastwards. Russia protested. Germany urged Austria, because she knew that Russia was by no means ready for another war after just having finished one in Japan. So Austria claimed the territory without further resistance. This again was a victory for Germany. Her third opportunity was in 1911, again in Morocco. This time France gave Germany a section of her possessions in the Congo Basin in order to save further trouble. By this time Germany had begun to feel that she would be able to have a larger place in the world than she at present occupied.

Then broke out the Balkan War in 1912. The Balkan League, of which Serbia was a member, was victorious over this because any concession that Turkey could give her was willingly given. Now that the Turks were defeated, their power to help Germany was lessened, and the feeling of hatred against the countries of the League was deepened. Austria had long wished to humiliate Serbia, because this country and her protector Russia prevented her from extending her territory eastward. The murder of the Archduke gave her just the opportunity she wanted. In July Austria delivered an ultimatum to Serbia with such unreasonable demands that it was clearly seen that Austria was anxious for war. Serbia complied with all the requests except two. As soon as Austria received a reply from Serbia she said the answer was not satisfactory and at once prepared for war. All this time Germany was encouraging Austria to issue the

ultimatum. On the Italian Front the Russians were doing well. They were excellent soldiers but they were in need of arms and ammunition. Now if the British had control of the Dardanelles, they would be able to get wheat from Russia for their own use, and they would be able to send arms and ammunition to the Russians. With this object in view the Allies tried to land troops at Gallipoli, but were defeated.

On the Italian Front the Italians and Austrians were fighting with varying success, but in 1918 the Italians got support from the Allies and defeated the Austrians so badly that they asked for peace.

In the far East General Allenby in command of the Allied forces captured Beersheba, Jaffa, Jerusalem, and recovered Palestine from the Turks.

It is easy to realize that immense numbers of troops had to be called into action to operate on these different fronts. England's navy also demanded large numbers of men. Against this navy Germany tried in vain to work disaster. The enemy carried on a submarine warfare with the two fold object of lessening the strength of the English fleet so that they might be more easily met them at sea, and of cutting off trade from England, so she might suffer from lack of supplies. At first the Germans were careful not to sink any passenger or merchant vessels, but soon they did not care what the vessel was carrying. In 1915 they sank the Lusitania, a passenger ship. There were one thousand one hundred and fifty three passengers drowned of whom one hundred and two were Americans.

After this event the Americans entered the war on behalf of the Allies. Only once did the German fleet meet the English at sea. The Battle of Jutland followed, in which the Germans were defeated by the able leadership of General Beatty, who was aided by General Jellicoe. In 1918 the Germans were preparing for a big attack. The Allies had one serious disadvantage since the beginning of the war, that of not being under any leaders. Up to this time each nation had its own commander. Now it was decided that English, French, Americans and all were to be under the one leader, General Foch. The Germans' idea of attacking was very different from Foch's. Their

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impossible ultimatum in order that war might be declared. The reasons why Germany was so anxious to begin war were: first, she decided that France was not at all ready to fight because she was having troubles at home; second, she considered Russia would take three or four weeks to get an army on the field; and lastly Germany thought England having troubles in Ireland and trouble at home with the Labour Question, would stay out of the fight. She might talk big but would do nothing. Germany never wanted England to join the war, and even promised her if she would stay out of the fight there would be no seizing of French Colonies. Moreover Germany counted on marching through Belgium without any resistance.

But instead of this, Belgium protested, and although Lelge fell, this opposition gave England and France time to prepare an army. If Germany had kept her word to preserve Belgium's neutrality, she would not have extended to neutral territory, but the Kaiser said just for the sake of a scrap of paper he would not hesitate going through Belgium to get to Paris.

That Belgium should have offered any resistance was one of Germany's miscalculations; but not the only one. Russia almost immediately marched against Austria, England sent an army across the Channel far less contemptible than the Kaiser had counted on, the colonies all stood by England and sent reinforcements, and the united forces of France and England were sufficiently strong to defeat the Germans in their first objective—the capture of Paris.

In regard to the events of the war, we shall have to consider the different battle fronts, along which the engagements took place. They were fighting on the Western Front, the Eastern Front, the Italian Front and at Gallipoli as well as in the far east namely Palestine and Mesopotamia.

On the Western Front there were two lines of trenches extending from the North Sea to Switzerland, the Germans occupying one and the English and French the other. After the Germans had captured Lelge, they entered France and marched on till they were only twenty-three miles from Paris. The battle of the Marne followed in which the Germans were badly defeated and forced to retreat to the Aisne River. After this battle the Germans sought to take possession of the north coast of Belgium and France and by so doing cut England off from France. But at the battle of Ypres they were repulsed by the Allies.

This was the first battle in which the Canadians fought. Here for the first time the Germans used poisonous gas. The first notable event of the year 1916 was the siege of Verdun. The Germans tried in vain to capture it, but they were defeated by the French under General Pétain. General Haig again defeated the Germans at the battle of the Somme. The British succeeded in capturing Vimy Ridge and prepared the most disastrous mine explosion ever known. Many Germans lost their lives by this terrible explosion.

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plan was to attack, then take time to prepare for a second encounter. They strike again and so on. But Foch kept striking continuously for one hundred days, and at the end of this time the German army was driven further and further back with their forces badly shattered. Germany now realized that she was defeated in the struggle. So she asked that steps be taken towards making peace. It was not known whether the demand came from the Kaiser alone or from the German people in general. So the Allies asked for further explanation and at the same time warned Germany that the terms of the Armistice would be severe. Two German delegates arrived at the Allies' headquarters and returned with the terms of the Armistice.

This included the evacuation of all allied territory and Alsace and Lorraine, the surrender of guns, aeroplanes, warships, submarines and locomotives. The terms were accepted immediately and the next day the Armistice was signed. The Peace Treaty was not framed till 1919.

Great Britain has come out of the war gloriously successful, through the courage and steadfastness of her sons. The loyalty with which the British Dominions supported the Mother Land was due to their appreciation of the principles for which Great Britain stands, to the freedom and prosperity they enjoy under her rule, and to the protection she affords her colonies in the pursuit of the peaceful industries of art and science. After the Great War, England still stands in the fore-front of nations and her influence for truth, justice, and righteousness will be greater than ever. All these advantages for which the Empire paid so dearly in lives, money and sacrifices are well worthy of deep consideration.

Every loyal subject should learn to realize the value of such a heritage, preserved to us by the great victory. For this purpose Armistice Day was instituted and throughout the Empire's vast Dominions, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, silence is observed for some few minutes and a fervent prayer uttered in gratitude to God who has given us the victory.

There are many notable poems written on the Great War, but I think "Prospect" by Allan Sullivan and "In Flanders Fields" by John McCrae are among the best. The latter the dead soldiers send a message to those who are still alive telling them to go on hopefully if they want to do honour to their Dead, and keep faith with them. In "Prospect" the poet shows us God's hand underlying all events and encourages the people of that time not to lose faith in God amidst the pain, the sacrifices, and the horrors wrought by war, so that

"With man's freedom purified  
We mark—behind our triumph—  
God."

FAREWELL GATHERING

On Friday evening, June 8th the friends and neighbors of Mr and Mrs. Wilmet Large A. and Mrs. Large gathered at their home in Albany for the last time to bid them adieu and wish them every good wish as they departed for their future home at Crapaud.

Although a feeling of sadness prevailed, the evening was pleasantly spent in music and conversation. After which the ladies of the Pleasant Circle Institute, of which Mrs. Large was a highly valued member, served lunch in a very dainty manner.

Mr and Mrs. Large have been very popular during their stay in Albany and have been among the foremost workers in church and school or in any work for the public welfare and will be very much missed in the Social life of this community.

A farewell address was read by Mrs. John Walker, President of the Pleasant Circle Institute, and a handsome brass jardiniere was presented to Mrs. Large, as a token of remembrance from the Institute. Several of the gentlemen present delivered short addresses, expressing their regret that this community is to lose such good neighbors and social workers and to wish them every prosperity in their new home.

The gentlemen then bounced Mr Large and all of singing "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows" and "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" the evening was brought to a close.



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LADY PATRICIA LODGE, CANOE COVE

On Friday evening, June 29th, an event of more than passing notice occurred at Canoe Cove, when a large number of the members from Princess Mary Lodge, Crapaud, Memorial of Ch'town, and Melville of Desable, visited the sisters of Lady Patricia Lodge, Canoe Cove. A very social evening was spent reviewing the general principles of the Orange Order and encouraging one another in the objects of our association.

Needless to say the wants of the inner man were well attended to by the bounteous refreshments served, to which all did ample justice. Many complimentary speeches were made of the Lady Patricia Lodge recently organized at Canoe Cove, and the success which they have acquired during the past few months, and the following officers were heartily congratulated for the way they have carried on the work:  
Worthy Mistress: Mrs. Neil MacKinnon.  
Deputy Mistress: Mrs. John L. MacKinnon.  
Recording Scribe: Miss Jean MacArthur.  
Financial Scribe: Mrs. Ernest Turner.  
Treasurer: Mrs. Mack MacFadyen.

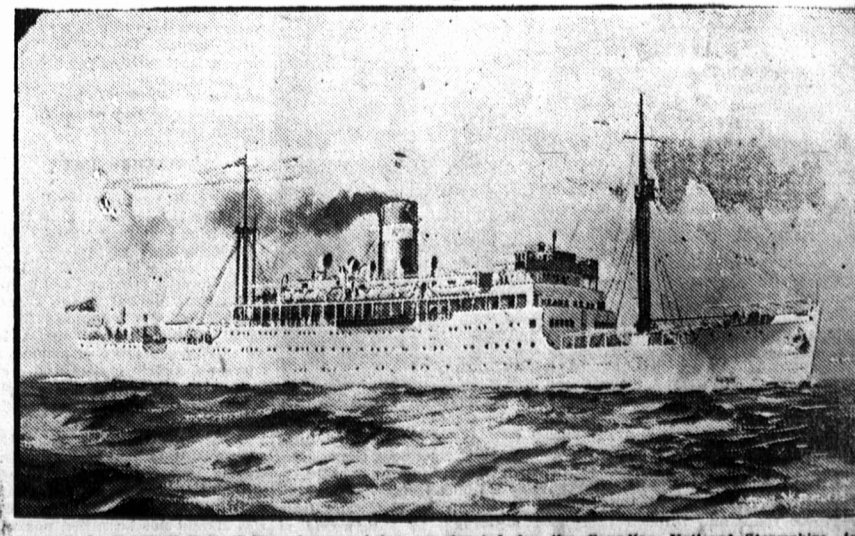
First and Second Lecturer: Mrs. Ewan MacKinnon and Mrs. Hector MacNevin.  
Chaplain: Mrs. Harry MacNevin.  
Inner Guard: Mrs. Duncan Darnach.  
Outer Guard: Mr. Donald MacDougall.  
Director of Ceremonies: Miss Marion MacEachern.  
First Committee Woman: Mrs. L.

MacKinnon.  
Guardian: Mr. Neil MacKinnon.  
On behalf of all the visiting members a hearty vote of thanks moved

by Mrs. Shaw of Ch'town seconded by Mr. Moore of Crapaud, was extended to the members of Lady Patricia Lodge.

At a late hour all dispersed to their various homes, trusting that a similar union would take place in the near future.

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