World War One Centenary
1914 - 1918
2014 - 2018
BDA Library
About the WW1 Centenary

The First World War

100 years on we mark the centenary of the beginning of World War One and commemorate those who lost their lives. During the First World War dentists went to the front line as soldiers and professionals. The British Dental Association played a key part in ensuring the dental care of soldiers and civilians during the conflict. Dentistry in the armed forces developed and changed because of events during WW1.

Events organised by libraries, museums and other organisations are happening across London, the UK and the world over the next 4 years.

Centenary Events

Royal Museums Greenwich
Forgotten Fighters: the First World War at Sea
http://www.1914.org/events-calendar/?id=EVENT458524
01 August 2014 - 01 August 2015

Royal Armouries at HM Tower of London
The Tower at War 1914-18: Foreman Buckingham goes to War
http://www.1914.org/events-calendar/?id=EVENT468707
05 September 2014 - 01 April 2015

Royal College of Nursing Library and Heritage Centre
Frontline nurses: British nurses of the First World War
http://www.1914.org/events-calendar/?id=EVENT483395
04 August 2014 - 31 March 2015

More Events can be found here:
http://www.1914.org/events-calendar/
At the outbreak of WW1 in 1914 the state of the nations teeth was at such a poor level that many voluntary recruits were rejected because of their dental health. Before the First World War almost all dental treatment had been provided by general surgeons. Most soldiers in history more than likely suffered from toothache, especially given the general lack of oral hygiene. Extraction was the only form of treatment.

Famously in October of 1914 Sir Douglas Haig, Commander of the First Army, suffered tooth ache during the battle of Aisne. Due to the fact no dental surgeons had been sent out with the army they had to send to Paris for a French dentist. After this the War Office was asked to send dental surgeons to the active areas and 12 were sent for duty at casualty clearing stations.

As demand for treatment increased dental officers would travel in mobile dental unit to divisional areas to treat minor dental ailments. This enabled soldiers to be treated in the field without having to return them to a casualty clearing station.

The events of the First World War demonstrated that a modern army could not function efficiently without an established dental service. It was not until 1923, with tireless campaigning form the BDA, that the Royal Arm Dental Corps was formed.
Throughout the First World War the BDJ continued to be published and distributed to members.

The increase in the cost of paper and printing during the war caused the Association to rapidly lose funds. This and the production of a separately paginated ‘War Supplement’ during the middle of the war resulted in the reduced size of the Journal and the eventual price rise in May 1917.

The ‘War Supplement’ was created for dental and medical professionals alike for the treatment of serious injuries inflicted on soldiers during the time. Despite its high printing cost it was deemed to be worthwhile as it provided vital information and research for those dealing with injured soldiers. It included features such as a ‘Chart for Recording Injuries of the Jaw’ and information on the ‘Antiseptic and Germicidal Value of Ether’.

“The cover images in volume 217 of the Journal have been commissioned to commemorate the centenary of the start of the Great War. Dentistry and oral surgery came to the fore in World War 1 and significant advances in dental treatment and oral surgery were made in order to cope with horrendous facial injuries and the sheer volume of troops.”

Illustrations are by Philip Bannister based on images from the BDA Museum and other organisations.
# Resources Available from the Library on WW1 Dentistry and the Armed Forces

Books and Packages available from the BDA Library, give us a call to see if they’re available to loan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Miracle Man of the Western Front</td>
<td>Dr Varaztad H. Kazanjian - Pioneer Plastic Surgeon, HM Deranian</td>
<td>2007, D 180 K DER</td>
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<td>A History of the Royal Air Force Dental Branch</td>
<td>FR Hulm</td>
<td>1980, D 940 HUL</td>
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<td>Dentists at War, VH Ward</td>
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<td>1996, D 940 WAR</td>
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<td>HMS Norfolk and Other Ships 1940-1946 - The Wartime Diary of a Dental Officer</td>
<td>JRS White</td>
<td>1995, D 940 WHI</td>
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<td>Reconstructing Faces - The Art and Wartime Surgery of Gillies</td>
<td>Pickerill, McIndoe and Mowlem</td>
<td>2013, WZ 112.5 MEI</td>
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<td>Package: Armed Forces</td>
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<td>Package: History of Dentistry – Dentistry and Dentists in Times of War</td>
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<td>Package: Maxillofacial Injuries</td>
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The British Dental Association Museum

Marking the Centenary

A WW1 exhibition is currently on at the BDA Museum and Wimpole Street.

Available to buy from the Museum:
‘What Tommy Took To War’ £6.99

About the BDA Museum

“The BDA Dental Museum is the place to find out about the history of dental care in the UK. With over 20,000 items the museum has the largest collection of material relating to the history of dentistry in the UK, from its time as a marketplace spectacle to the complex procedures and treatment of today.”
http://www.bda.org/museum/about-the-museum/

Located at the British Dental Association headquarters in central London the museum is open to everyone. Find out more about the museum by visiting their website.