

*Northwest
Premiere*

MARY'S WEDDING

By Stephen Massicotte

Directed by Karen Lund



TAPROOT  **THEATRE**
C O M P A N Y

March 23–April 21
Previews March 21 & 22

Student Study Guide

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Student Study Guide

Play Synopsis

Set against the backdrop of World War I, *Mary's Wedding*, travels with Charlie and Mary between the farmlands of Canada and the battlefields of France. Memories of young love and their long distance courtship weave together as Mary dreams of the first time she met Charlie and their life that followed. This heartfelt, critically acclaimed new work explores the call of duty and the beauty of love.

The Cast with Character Descriptions

Jesse Notehelfer

Mary: A young woman

Sergeant Flowerdew: Sergeant Gordon Muriel Flowerdew, he is Charlie's commanding officer.

Sam Wilson

Charlie: A young farmer and horse rider

The Setting

The night before Mary's wedding July 1920, two years after the Great War

Production & Theme

The over arching theme of *Mary's Wedding* is sacrificial love and the predominate production element is that the whole show is a dream, specifically, Mary's dream. From the set, to costumes, lightning and sound everything is filtered through Mary and how she would view it.

The Playwright: Stephen Massicotte



Stephen Massicotte is a young Calgary based writer and actor. He grew up in Thunder Bay, went to college in Sudbury and then to the Univer-

sity of Calgary. He has written several autobiographical pieces that have won awards at various Fringe festivals, but *Mary's Wedding* is his first full-length fictional play. Still, he found that writing *Mary's Wedding* became a human

story very close to home. Although he started out to write a play about the First World War and specifically the Strathcona Regiment's heroic charge on Morueil Wood, the love story of Charlie and Mary closely mirrored personal events in his own life. He found that he was inserting lines that he and his own girlfriend had exchanged during the course of their relationship. As a result of the intensity of that relationship, the love story became the heart of the play with the tragedy of the Great War as a backdrop. He feels that he was

helped enormously through reading great authors such as Ernest Hemingway, Kurt Vonnegut and Robert Graves who wrote of the war experience in such a moving way. After the success of *Mary's Wedding* he thinks he can now actually consider himself a playwright. Taken from: *Mary's Wedding*: Study Guide for The National Arts Centre English Theatre (September, 2002) Written by Jim McNabb



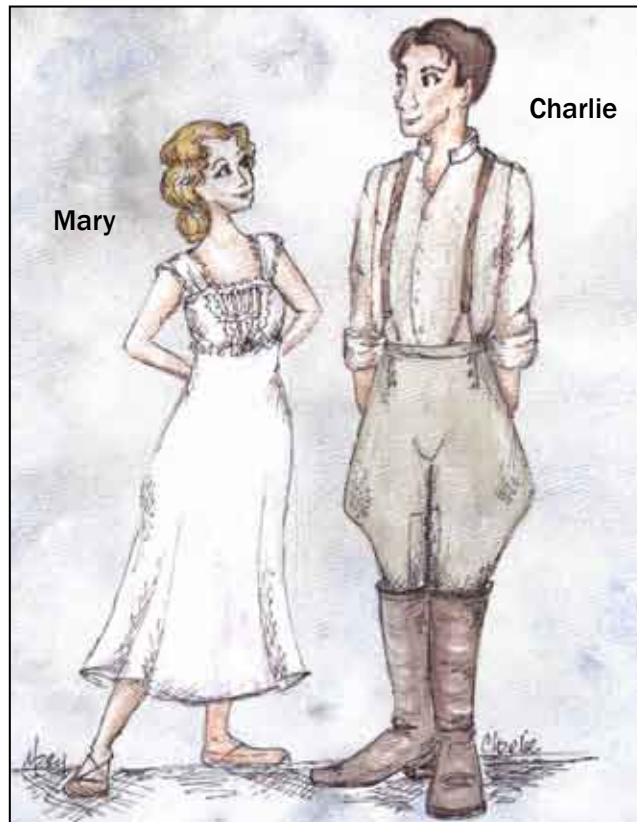
Jesse Notehelfer (front) and Sam Wilson in Mary's Wedding. Photo by Matthew Lawrence.

The Artistic Vision

The Artistic Vision is decided by the director who then conveys their overarching vision, or mood and message of the play, to their design team who implement this vision into their designs.

The director for Mary's Wedding is Karen Lund. When she reads, Mary's Wedding, she asks herself, "Why was this show written? What does the author want to say through this play? What are the major themes of the show? What is it about this show that resonate with me and how can I convey those thoughts and ideas to an audience?" After thinking over these questions, Karen decides on a few elements she wants Taproot Theatre's production to showcase. The first is obvious, but critical. Mary's Wedding is a dream and everything in the design elements should reflect that. Meaning, everything Mary remembers and envisions are from her own memories, interpreted through this dream and aren't necessarily historical reality. Secondly, the play is very theatrical, so she wants to do as much as possible with as little as possible. This translates into: "Let's keep the colors of the set and costumes relatively neutral and really paint moods and feelings with the stage lights and sound effects." There are also very few props- items that the actors would hold in their hands, such as a letter or teacup.

Costume Design, by Sarah Burch Gordon



The Costume Design by Sarah Gordon incorporates the dream elements of the play. Mary is wearing a nightgown as a reminder she's interacting in her dream. To create movement and depth in the nightgown Sarah layered several pieces of fabric on top of each other. The top layer is a sheer fabric, then another layer of sheer with glitter on it, and then the bottom layer is a solid linen color. The three layers of fabric gives the nightgown a sense of depth, since the top layer of sheer constantly hides and yet reveals the color and glitter of the lower layers.

For Charlie, Sarah decided to blend both the farm and military worlds. She did this by giving him army pants and boots with a farmer's shirt. Remember that this is Mary's dream and everything on stage is her memory or interpretation and not necessarily historical fact. In staying with neutral colors, Sarah chose crèmes and tans.

The Artistic Vision Continued

Set Design, by Mark Lund

The Set Design by Mark Lund follows this simplicity. The set includes a back wall made out of scrim, (a fabric) with a big hole in the bottom center of it, like it had been hit by a bomb. In front of the back wall is a trench. It's not a typical trench that you would see from old war pictures, instead it kind of looks like the rubble of a destroyed building foundation. Right in front of this is a platform which the actors can use to move between locations throughout the play. On the front part of the stage is a large off-center platform on a slight tilt. The set is a light grey so that when the stage lights project color onto the set it will show better. There will also be WWI images projected onto the back wall. This serves to contrast the intimate, innocent love against the harsh brutality of war.



Sound Design, by Mark Lund

The Sound Design by Mark Lund, creates a soundscape for the play; constant noise on stage to create atmosphere and environment. You may notice that when you dream your senses are heightened- noises are a bit louder, lighting is a bit brighter, smells are stronger, etc. Mark has decided to incorporate that into his design. In *Mary's Wedding* you will also hear noises morphing from one noise into the next. For instance a drum beat could morph into a heartbeat which then morphs into someone knocking at a door.

History

Many of the events and characters mentioned in Mary's Wedding are actual historical events and people. Although the characters of Charlie and Mary are fictitious, Sergeant Gordon Muriel Flowerdew was a real soldier in the Canadian Military.

Timeline of WWI

1914

- June** – Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo
- July** – Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia
 - Tsar Nicholas II orders the general mobilization of the Russian army
- August** – Germany declares war on Russia and France
 - Germany invades Belgium. Britain declares war on Germany
 - Russian forces invade East Prussia (Poland)
- September** – Britain declares war on Austria-Hungary
- October** – 1st Battle of Ypres starts (ends 17 Nov)
 - Turkey enters the war on the side of the Central Powers
- December 25** – Unofficial truce between British and German soldiers on the Western Front

1915

- April** – 2nd Battle of Ypres starts (ends 25 May): first large-scale use of poison gas in battle
- May** – Italy declares war on Austria-Hungary

1917

- April** – USA declares war on Germany
- July** – 3rd Battle of Ypres (also known as the Battle of Passchendaele) starts (ends 10 Nov)
- December** – Russia signs an armistice (end of war agreement) with Germany

1918

- April** – Manfred von Richthofen, the 'Red Baron', is shot down and killed over France
- October** – Turkey signs armistice with the Allies
- November** – Austria-Hungary signs armistice with the Allies

1919

- June** – Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates
 - Germany signs armistice with the Allies at Compiègne
 - Surrender of German forces in East Africa
 - Germany signs the Treaty of Versailles
- September** – Austria signs the Treaty of Saint Germain

World War I

The setup: Countries Involved & their Leaders

GERMANY: Kaiser Wilhelm II

AUSTRIA/HUNGARY: Archduke Franz Ferdinand
(heir to the throne)

Frank Josef, Emperor of
Austria, King of Hungary

BULGARIA: Tsar Ferdinand I

**OTTOMAN EMPIRE/
TURKEY:** Sultan Mehmed V

FRANCE: President Raymond Poincare

SERBIA: King Alexander

BELGIUM: King Albert I

UNITED KINGDOM: King George V

Prime Minister Herbert
Asquith

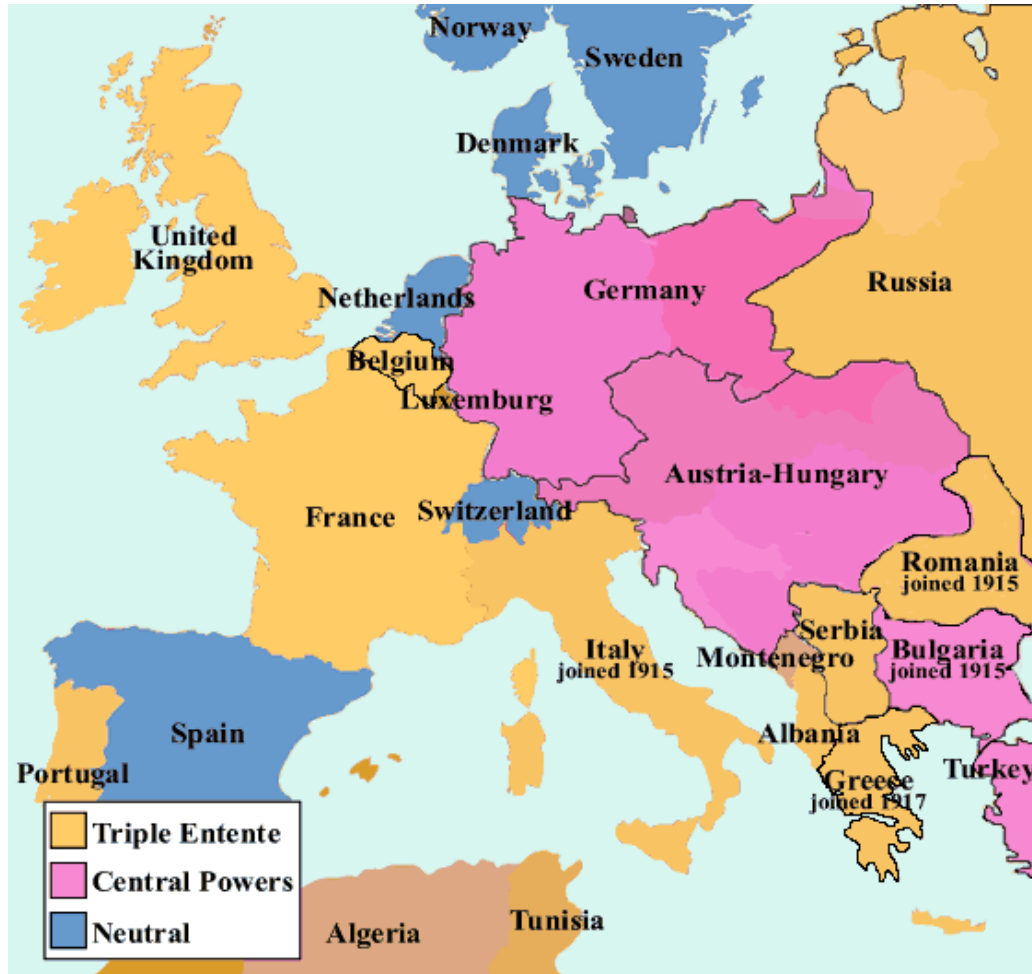
CANADA:
Sir Robert Borden

UNITED STATES Woodrow Wilson

RUSSIA Tsar Nicholas II

ITALY King Vittorio Emanuele III

Pre War Country Boundaries in Europe, 1914



How it began

There are many causes for the eruption of World War I, but let's look at a few specific causes among the larger countries involved. The Balkans, (Serbia), had been under Turkish or Austria-Hungarian rule for many years and although there was a semblance of peace prior to 1914, they were still unsettled and tensions remained high. Just before the break out of war in 1914, Austria-Hungary had started imposing its will upon the Balkans again which only caused the tensions to flare higher and The Balkans' citizens to stir them selves into a nationalistic fervor. Although the Balkans were made up of several smaller nations, they united themselves under the desire of having their own voice and with the identity of a pan-Slavic people with Russia as their chief ally.

Germany wanted greater power and international influence, which eventually sparked a Naval arms race with Britain, who responded by replacing their own nearly obsolete Navy with newer and greater warships, called "Dreadnoughts", (a generic term for modern warships). The French wanted revenge against Germany after Germany had invaded France in 1871, where not only did Germany devastate them, but they were also forced to surrender land to Germany and pay reparations of what would equate to a billion dollars today. Russia meanwhile, was trying to restore some semblance of national prestige after a near decade of civil strife, on top of this they were trying to recover from the heavy losses they had taken from the Japanese military in 1905.

The spark that started the fire

On June 28, 1914, at approximately 11:00 am, the Archduke and heir to the Austria-Hungary Empire, Franz Ferdinand and his wife were killed in Sarajevo by Gavrilo Princip, a member of Young Bosnia (Serbian nationalist). The assassination caused an immense rift between the Serbian and Austro-Hungarian government which eventually lead to Austro-Hungarian officials issuing an ultimatum, containing five major concessions, to the Serbian government, on July 26, 1914.

The Eruption!

Austria-Hungary expected that Serbia would reject the remarkably severe terms of the ultimatum, thereby giving a pretext for launching itself into a limited war against Serbia. But Serbia had ties with Russia and although Austria-Hungary didn't think Russia would get involved in this conflict besides a verbal political protest they did ask Germany, (whom they had a treaty with) for support just in case something did happen. Germany quickly agreed and even encouraged Austria-Hungary's military war stance against the Serbian Government. Once the time limit on the ultimatum had expired, Austro-Hungary declared war on Serbia on, July 28, 1914.

Dominoes

- Russia was bound by treaty to Serbia, and started a mobilization of its military forces to help in the defense. Germany viewed this mobilization as an act of war against Austria-Hungary and declared war on Russia on August 1, 1914 and then on Russia's ally, France on August 3, 1914, who was bound to Russia by another military treaty.
- On August 4, 1914, German troops were sent into Belgium, defying the neutrality that Belgium was promised, because it was the quickest way for the

Germans to get to Paris. Great Britain was bound by treaty to protect neutral Belgium and France, therefore Britain declared war against Germany and Austria-Hungary, later that same day.

- With Britain's entry into the war, all of it's colonies and dominions offered various military and financial assistance to help support the war effort. These countries included Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa.
- The United States President, Woodrow Wilson, declared the United States to be in Absolute Neutrality of the war and did not get involved until 1917 when Germany created a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare, which threatened the United States' commercial shipping.
- Japan, honoring an earlier treaty signed with Britain, declared war on Germany on August 23, 1914. Austria-Hungary countered by declaring war on Japan two days later.
- Although Italy was allied with both Germany and Austria-Hungary, it was able to stay out of the war citing that the alliance only obliged Italy to protect Germany and Austria-Hungary in a defensive war stance and Germany and Austria-Hungary were clearly making aggressive, offensive maneuvers. Italy thus declared itself neutral and stayed neutral for nearly a year until May of 1915, when it finally joined the war by siding with the Allies, (U.K., France, Russia, etc.) against the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary).
- Such were the mechanics of the European Alliances in 1914 that spurred a contained civil war in Serbia into a full out World War.

A Family Affair

Many of the European monarchies were inter-related. The British monarch George V's predecessor, Edward VII, was the German Kaiser's uncle and, via his wife's sister, uncle of the Russian Tsar as well. His niece, Alexandra, was the Tsar's wife. Edward's daughter, Maud, was the Norwegian Queen, and his niece, Ena, Queen of Spain; Marie, a further niece, was to become Queen of Romania.

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/origins/causes.htm>

Canada's Involvement

Military history of Canada during World War I

When Britain declared war on Germany on August 4, 1914, Canada and the other members of the British Empire were automatically involved. On August 5, 1914, the Governor General declared a war between Canada and Germany. Since most Canadians were of British descent, there was widespread support from coast to coast that Canadians had a duty to protect their Motherland. However the French Canadians did not see themselves obliged to serve the British monarch, especially when the French were the first European settlers to inhabit Canada after the discovery of the Saint Lawrence River by Jacques Cartier in 1534 and founding of New France (now Quebec) by Samuel de Champlain in 1608.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, accessed January 29, 2007 at http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Military_history_of_Canada_during_World_War_I&printable=yes

Lord Strathcona's Horse

Charlie and Flowerdew's regiment was mobilized at the outbreak of the Great War and began training in England. Because of the losses on the Western front and the immediate need for replacements, the regiment arrived in France on May 4 to fight as infantry in the trenches until early 1916. Reinstated as a mounted force, they were moved to the Somme in June and saw action through to the end of the war. They played a pivotal role in the German offensive in March 1918 where they fought mounted and dismounted in rear-guard actions particularly at Moreuil Wood on March 30.

Part of a Playgoer's Guide for Mary's Wedding, accessed January 28, 2007 at <http://people.stu.ca/~hunt/22230405/marytext.htm>

Gordon Flowerdew

Gordon Muriel Flowerdew (January 2, 1885 – March 30, 1918) was a lieutenant in the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), Canadian Army during the First World War. He was a recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious award in British and Commonwealth forces, for gallantry in the face of the enemy. Flowerdew is remembered for his actions at the Battle of Moreuil Wood, where he led, "The Last Great Cavalry Charge", for it was the last cavalry charge in military history.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, accessed January 29, 2007 at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordon_Muriel_Flowerdew

Details on the Moreuil Wood Charge

On reaching his first objective in Moreuil Wood, Lieutenant Flowerdew reached high ground at the north-east corner of the woods just in time to encounter a 300 strong German force from the 101st Grenadier's who were withdrawing. The two lines of Germans were each about sixty strong, with machine guns in the centre and flanks, with one line being about two hundred yards behind the other. Realizing the critical nature of the operation and how much depended on it, Lieut. Flowerdew ordered "**It's a charge boys, it's a charge!**" however the bugle call was silenced by German fire before it was even sounded. Flowerdew led his remaining troops to the charge. The squadron passed over both lines of Germans, killing many of the enemy with their swords; and then wheeling about and galloping back on them again. Although the squadron lost about 70 per cent of its members, from rifle and machine gun fire, the Germans finally broke and retreated. In the end, both sides were decimated, and Flowerdew was severely wounded through both thighs during the charge, but continued to cheer his men on. He passed away the next day with only 51 men of his unit surviving the charge. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions and bravery.

Commonwealth Military Organization

Name	No. of personel	Subordinate	Officer in command
Army	50,000-60,000+	2+ corps	General or field marshal
Corps	30,000-50,000	2+ divisions	Lieutenant general
Division	10,000-20,000	2-4 brigades	Major general
Brigade	3,000-5,000	2+ regiments	Colonel
Regiment	300-1,000	2-6 squadrons	Lieutenant colonel
Squadron	60-250	2-8 troops	Major
Troop	25-70	2+ squads	Lieutenant
Squad	8-12		Staff sergeant



Victoria Cross

The Victoria Cross (VC) is the highest recognition for valor "in the face of the enemy" that can be awarded

to members of the British and Commonwealth armed forces of any rank in any service, and civilians under military command. A total of 1,356 Victoria Crosses have been awarded since 1856, with only three people having received the decoration a second time. Only one in ten VC recipients in the 20th century is said to have survived the action for which they received the VC and there are currently only twelve surviving holders of the VC –eight of them for exploits during the Second World War. All ranks salute a bearer of the Victoria Cross.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, accessed January 29, 2007 at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_Cross

Technology during World War I

The earlier years of the First World War can be characterized as a clash of 20th century technology with 19th century tactics. This dichotomy had disastrous results in the form of ineffectual battles with huge numbers of casualties on both sides. It was not until the final year of the war that the major armies made effective steps in adapting to the modern battlefield.

All of the following is taken From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, accessed January 29, 2007 at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology_during_World_War_I unless otherwise posted.

Cavalry

In August 1914 all combatant armies still had a cavalry and the opening battles on both Eastern and Western Fronts provided a number of small instances of traditional cavalry actions. Once the front lines stabilized though, a combination of barbed wire, machine guns and rapid fire rifles proved deadly to horse mounted troops.

The Canadian Cavalry Brigade was made up of two units: the Canadian Dragoons and Lord Strathcona's Horse. A British officer, J.E.B. Seely DSO, was appointed commander of the brigade.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, accessed January 29, 2006 at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cavalry#Cavalry:27s_demise

Trench Warfare

Trench battles

The space between the opposing trenches was referred to as “no man’s land” and varied in distance depending on the battlefield. On the Western Front it was typically between 100 and 300 yards, though only 30 yards on Vimy Ridge

The popular image of a trench warfare infantry assault is of a wave of soldiers, bayonets fixed, going “over the top” and marching in a line across no man’s land into a hail of enemy fire. Unfortunately new technology created firepower that made this form of attack a slaughter and almost impossible to achieve success with. These innovations included bolt-action infantry rifles, rifled artillery and hydraulic recoil mechanisms, zigzag trenches and machine guns. Probably the most important innovation though was the introduction of high explosive shells, which dramatically increased the lethality of artillery.

Trenches were never straight but were dug in a square-toothed pattern that broke the line into bays connected by traverses. This meant that a soldier could never see more than 10 meters and that a soldier would be protected from shrapnel blasts and enemy infiltration.

British trenches were usually 8 to 16 feet deep, whereas Germans were typically much deeper, usually a minimum of 12 feet deep.

Life in the trenches

An individual soldier’s time in the front-line trench was usually brief; from as little as one day to as much as two weeks at a time before being relieved. A typical British soldier’s year could be divided as follows:

- 15% front line
- 10% support line
- 30% reserve line
- 20% rest
- 25% other (hospital, travelling, leave, training courses, etc.)

Even when in the front line, the typical soldier would only be called upon to engage in fighting a handful of times a year—making an attack, defending against an attack or participating in a raid.

Wounded

At various times during the war official truces were organized so that the wounded could be recovered from no man’s land and the dead could be buried. One famous truce was the Christmas truce between British and

German soldiers in the winter of 1914 on the front near Armentieres.. The spirit of this truce is portrayed in the 2005 movie Merry Christmas (Joyeux Noël).

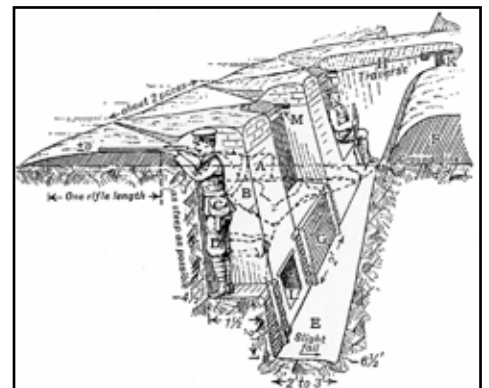
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, accessed January 29, 2006 at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trench_warfare

Poison gas

Although the use of poison gas had been banned in the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, Germany turned to this industry for what it hoped would be a decisive weapon to break the deadlock of trench warfare. Chlorine gas was first used on the battlefield in April 1915 at the Second Battle of Ypres in Belgium. Later, mustard gas, phosgene and other gasses were used. England and France soon followed suit with their own gas weapons.



Left: Trench construction diagram from a 1914 British infantry manual
Right: A Cheshire Regiment sentry in a trench near La Boisselle during the Battle of the Somme, July 1916



Trench Warfare Cont.

War of Attrition

(a wearing down or weakening of resistance)

All countries involved in the war applied the full force of industrial mass-production to the manufacturing of weapons and ammunition, especially artillery shells.

The war of attrition then focused on another resource: human lives. In the battle of Verdun in particular, German Chief of Staff Erich von Falkenhayn hoped to “bleed France white” through repeated attacks on this French village.

Air warfare, Submarines, Tanks

As with most other technologies, airplanes, submarines and tanks underwent a baptism by fire during WW I. Being new inventions to war it took many years before they were durable, reliable and commanding officers learned to use them tactically.

Navy

Britain's Royal Navy, initiated the construction of a revolutionary battleship, HMS Dreadnought. It was the world's first all-big-gun battleship and immediately made all existing battleships - even those possessed by the Royal Navy - redundant and redefined the way in which major naval engagements of the future would be fought.

*From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, accessed January 29, 2007 at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology_during_World_War_I

The 1918 Allied Counter-Offensive

In the spring and summer of 1918, the German army launched a bold new campaign on the Western Front. Appearances, however, were deceptive. Germany was playing its ‘last card’, and after initial successes, the Ludendorff offensive ran out of steam.

On 18 July, having rebuffed the last major German assault, French forces in the Marne area launched a surprise counter-attack. This marked the beginning of the ‘Hundred Days’, an Allied counter-offensive that finally broke the military stalemate on the Western Front and brought the First World War to a close.

At 11:00am on November 11, 1918 — the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month — a ceasefire came into effect and the opposing armies on the Western Front began to withdraw from their positions. Canadian George Lawrence Price is traditionally regarded as the last soldier killed in the Great War: he was shot by a German sniper and died at 10:58.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, accessed January 28, 2007 at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_war_I

Postwar Europe, 1919

The war caused the disintegration of four empires: the Austro-Hungarian, German, Ottoman, and Russian. Germany lost its overseas empire. Poland reemerged as an independent country, after more than a century. Russia became the Soviet Union and lost several regions such as Finland, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia which all became independent countries. The old Ottoman Empire, in the Middle East, was soon replaced by Turkey and several other countries.

Consequences

Terms of the peace were dictated by France, Britain and the United States, during the 1919 Paris Peace

Conference. The result was the Treaty of Versailles, signed in June 1919. The Versailles treaty returned the border provinces of Alsace-Lorraine to France. It also severely limited the German armed forces by restricting the size of the army to 100,000 and disallowing a navy or air force.

France suffered heavy damage in the war. In addition to loss of life, the industrial north-east of the country had been devastated by the war. Once it was clear that Germany was going to lose, Ludendorff had ordered the destruction of the mines in France and Belgium. His goal was to cripple the industries of Germany's main European rival.

But most importantly the war in the trenches left a generation of maimed soldiers and widows.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia,
accessed January 28, 2007 at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Front_%28World_War_I%29
European Country Boundaries, Post War 1919

European Country Boundaries, Post War 1919



www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/.../europe1919.htm

The Charge of the Light Brigade

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892), English poet often regarded as the chief representative of the Victorian age in poetry. Tennyson succeeded Wordsworth as Poet Laureate in 1850. Among Tennyson's major poetic achievements is the elegy mourning the death of his friend Arthur Hallam, "In Memoriam" (1850). The patriotic poem, "Charge of the Light Brigade" is one of Tennyson's best known works. It is also recited by Charlie and Mary throughout the play *Mary's Wedding*.

The Literature Network, accessed January 29, 2007 at <http://www.online-literature.com/tennyson/>

The Charge of the Light Brigade

Half a league, half a league, Half a league onward, All in the valley of Death Rode the six hundred. "Forward the Light Brigade! Charge for the guns!" he said. Into the valley of Death Rode the six hundred.	5	Flash'd all their sabres bare, Flash'd as they turn'd in air Sabring the gunners there, Charging an army, while All the world wonder'd. Plunged in the battery-smoke Right thro' the line they broke; Cossack and Russian Reel'd from the sabre-stroke Shatter'd and sunder'd. Then they rode back, but not, Not the six hundred.	30
Forward, the Light Brigade!" Was there a man dismay'd? Not tho' the soldier knew Some one had blunder'd. Theirs not to make reply, Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die. Into the valley of Death Rode the six hundred.	10 15	Cannon to right of them, Cannon to left of them, Cannon behind them Volley'd and thunder'd; Storm'd at with shot and shell, While horse and hero fell, They that had fought so well Came thro' the jaws of Death, Back from the mouth of hell, All that was left of them, Left of six hundred.	40
Cannon to right of them, Cannon to left of them, Cannon in front of them Volley'd and thunder'd; Storm'd at with shot and shell, Boldly they rode and well, Into the jaws of Death, Into the mouth of hell Rode the six hundred.	20 25	When can their glory fade? O the wild charge they made! All the world wonder'd. Honour the charge they made! Honour the Light Brigade, Noble six hundred!	50

Additional Resources

Movies

All Quiet on the Western Front 1930

Sergeant York 1941

Paths of Glory 1957

Gallipoli 1981

A Very Long Engagement 2004

Joyeux Noël 2005

Fly Boys 2006

Books

Twentieth Century Defences in Britain: an introductory guide by I. Brown et al (Council for British Archaeology, 1995)

Fire over England: The German air raids in World War I by H.G. Castle (Secker & Warburg, 1982)

The World Crisis 1911-1918 by W.S. Churchill (2 vols. Odhams Press, 1939)

The Defenders: A history of the British volunteers by G.Cousins (Muller, 1968)

Dreadnought by R.K. Massie (Pimlico, 1993)

Invasion: From the Armada to Hitler, 1588-1945 by F.McLynn (Routledge and Keegan Paul, 1987)

Zeppelins Over England by K.E. Poolman (Evans Bros., 1960)

Websites

<http://www.firstworldwar.com>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/firstworldwar/index.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_war_I

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Front_%28World_War_I%29

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Moreuil_Wood

Glossary

Follows script (page #)

“with Tennyson” (6): Alfred Lord Tennyson, apparently quite verbose, author of “The Charge of the Light Brigade,” “The Lady of Shallot,” and “Memoriam.”

“The Charge of the Light Brigade” (6-7): a poem about the cavalry marching to certain death, by Alfred Lord Tennyson.

Trooper Edwards, 1st Troop, C Squadron, LdSH(RC) (11): Trooper- rank adopted by Canadian cavalry in 1923

1st troop- first of four troops (25 horses) in ‘C’ Squadron

C Squadron- formed for World War One, one of three squadrons in the Canadian Cavalry Brigade

Lord Strathcona’s Horse (Royal Canadians)- regular armored regiment of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, created by a private individual during Boer War in South Africa (1899-1902)

St. Lawrence (12): river in eastern Canada, flowing into the Atlantic Ocean

U-boats (13): German submarines, commissioned in World War I, perfected and notorious in World War II

King George (18): (1895-1952). Because Canadian troops were technically part of the British Empire, King George was still their commander-in-chief. Thus, he would ceremonially inspect them as he would the British troops.

division (18): 10,000 to 20,000 soldiers, split into two, three or four regiments

infantry (19): soldiers fighting primarily on foot with small arms—rifles, grenades, pistols, etc. The primary force of any army, which ultimately decides whether ground is held or taken.

cavalry (19): soldiers or warriors fighting while mounted on horses during combat; in the Napoleonic Wars, massed infantry was deadly to cavalry, unless artillery scattered the infantry first. That’s where cavalry got their glory—in a charge. They tried to employ this tactic in World War I, but the trenches allowed enemy infantry to hide from artillery, making the cavalry obsolete. The use of machine guns also made the cavalry obsolete.

artillery (19): refers to any engine used for the discharge of projectiles during war, e.g. bombs, missiles, etc. The term also describes the ground-based troops that man the weapons

parade (19): formal marching in rank and file for inspection purposes; formal dress and weapons at attention

chlorine gas (20): described as a yellowish-green cloud that creeps into holes in the ground, causing severe breathing difficulties; kills by drowning, essentially.

“no-man’s-land” (20): the land between opposing trenches, anywhere from 7 to 500 yards wide. Craters, barbed wire and blackened tree stumps usually littered the space.

trenches (20): seven feet deep, six feet across, zigzagged for protection, ran from the North Sea to the border of Switzerland during WWI; dug in maze systems to connect headquarters to the front. Read more in the Marketing/Ed packet

“artillery barrage” (23): lots of bombs dropped at once

front (23): where the action of the battle is

shells (23): another name for bombs

Glossary Cont.

Follows script (page #)

zigzag (25): the trenches were dug in zigzag patterns to make it harder for the enemy to aim artillery effectively, or to destroy an entire line of troops

“go over the top” (29): method of trench warfare—infantry climbs out of the front trench to storm the enemy trench and try to take control of it. The charge is preceded by an artillery barrage to kill or scare away the enemy troops.

“nothing up the pipe, fixed bayonet” (30): fixed bayonet means that the bayonet, a knife-like protrusion, was attached to the muzzle of the gun in preparation for close combat; to have nothing up the pipe means the gun is not loaded. Charlie and those in the battle marched against machine guns with no ammunition and only a knife at the end of their guns.

“machine guns...raking” (31): with a machine gun, you don't have to aim, you can simply sweep the gun from side to side while firing. The gun shoots enough bullets that you are sure to hit someone.

equitation (34): the art of horse riding, specifically for competition. There are several different forms, including Western, dressage and hunt seat. Charlie would have ridden Western, and if Mary had learned equitation, she probably would've learned a side-saddle form

God Save the King (34): The anthem of the British Empire, to the tune of “My Country, 'Tis of Thee.”

“ride like a colonist” (34): think cowboy—they ride horses to get somewhere, function over form, as opposed to competitive riding for show.

“on patrol” (37): a specific function of the infantry—a small group of soldiers watches the activities of the enemy and looks out for an attack

“a scout or...or a sniper” (37): both sides would periodically send people to patrol enemy lines—to try to watch what was happening to get a clue about what the next move would be. A sniper would most likely not get as close as this guy was. It was most likely a scout.

“sites...spent casing...smoking barrel” (38):

Sites- the groove at the end of the muzzle that helps to aim, *Spent casing*- every bullet is encased in a shell that comes out the side of the gun when the bullet goes forward; this is the casing, spent because the bullet has been used

Smoking barrel- after the shot has been fired, the smoke from the gunpowder can only escape through the barrel; also used as an expression

The Lady of Shallot (41): another Tennyson poem

The Kaiser (46): the emperor of the German Empire; Wilhelm II was the Kaiser at the time (1859-1941)

Belgian soil...Great Britain...Germany (46): the beginning of the war; see World War One article in marketing/ed. Packet

“1st troop...2nd...supply” (48): obviously, certain troops were more prestigious than others

bi-planes (54): the planes with wings above and below the cockpit

VC [Victoria Cross] (58): highest recognition for valor “in the face of the enemy;” can be awarded to any member of the Commonwealth armed forces or civilian under military command

Strafed (61): strafing is dropping lots of bombs at once in the hopes of hitting something

Activities Cont.

Have your class research one of the battles that Canada was in or a famous person like The Red Baron!

Famous Battles Canada Fought in:

Neuve Chapelle

Second Battle of Ypres

The Battle of the Somme

The Battle of Vimy Ridge

Third Battle of Ypres

If You've Always Wanted to be Onstage ... It's Time to Act!

Whether you are a budding star or seasoned actor, Taproot's Acting Studio has classes for you!



Student performing in 'Jane Eyre'.
Photo by Josiah Wallace.

Youth Scene Study

This is a class for young actors who wish to deepen their understanding of the craft of acting. Using scene work, students will explore character, subtext, relationship and environment.

Ages 9 - 18 years. Sat., Mar. 31-May 19, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 7 weeks, \$230. No class Apr. 14.

Class meets at Grace Fellowship Church

Dramatic Adventures-Fairy Tales

Students will let their imaginations run wild as they create their own play, using drama and movement. Family and friends are invited to the final class to see the show!

Ages 7-9 years. Mon., Apr. 2-May 21, 4:00-5:30 p.m., 7 weeks, \$195. No class Apr. 9.

Class meets at Grace Fellowship Church

Spring Break Camp

Session 1: Ages 7-11 years

Session 2: Ages 12-18 years

Students will sample a buffet of acting skills such as improv, stage combat, Shakespeare and musical theatre in this one-week adventure! Parents will enjoy a presentation the final day of camp.

Mon.-Fri., Apr. 9-13, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 1 week, \$260. Performance: Fri., Apr. 13, 4:00 p.m. at Taproot Theatre.

Class meets at Taproot Theatre

Session 3: Ages 4-6 years

Especially for our youngest Actors! Students aged 4-6 will create an original performance while learning the building blocks of acting.

Mon.-Fri., Apr. 9-13, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., 1 week, \$150. Performance: Fri., Feb. 13, 11:00 a.m. at Grace Fellowship Church.

Class meets at Grace Fellowship Church

Scene Study

This in-depth class is for adult actors who wish to deepen their understanding of the craft of acting. Using scene work, we will explore character, subtext, relationship, and environment as we intensify our exploration of the actor's process.

Mon., Apr. 2-May 21, 7:00-10:00 p.m., 8 weeks, \$260.

Class meets at Green Lake Presbyterian Church

FOR ADULTS AND YOUTH

The Business of Acting

Taproot Theatre presents an intensive 2-day training seminar featuring New York based stage and screen Casting Director, Kevin Kennison. Actors of all ages and skill levels will benefit from Kevin's first-hand knowledge about working in this exciting industry! More details and registration information at www.taproottheatre.org.

Fri., Mar. 23 Intro. & Q&A 6:30-8:30 PM

Sat., Mar. 24 Session I - (Beginners) 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Session II - (Advanced) 2:00-5:00 PM



Students performing 'Suessical'. Photo by Josiah Wallace.