

trinity

TRINITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE SPRING 2014



remembering the great war

Plus: Reunion 2014 • Introducing our new Provost



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Trinity remembers

In August 2014, the world will mark 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War. It was a war that would trigger unimaginable losses and unprecedented social change. The world – and Trinity College — would never be the same. A century later, Trinity students, alumni, faculty and staff are helping to ensure, in myriad ways, that the legacy of The Great War is one of respect, understanding and learning what history has to teach us.

BY HALEY CULLINGHAM ILLUSTRATION BY KATY LEMAY

Ethel Ridley '95 (centre) leaving Buckingham Palace in 1919 after her investiture as a Commander, Order of the British Empire.
All photos courtesy of Trinity College Archives.



“The testimonials to Wilkins (back row, far left) and Matheson (third row, third from right) by their peers are among the most heart-wrenching tributes paid in *The Review* to Trinity’s war dead,” says Trinity’s Rolph-Bell Archivist Sylvia Lassam.

“They are described in the most achingly eloquent way as the brightest and best, princes among men. One was to become a doctor, the other a lawyer, and their lives were cut short in the last few months of the war.”

A changing campus

Reginald Prinsep Wilkins and Gordon McMichael Matheson met in their freshman year at Trinity. They played football together, and were members of the Glee Club. But both were eager to enlist, and in 1916, they started their training together as officers in the same battalion. In the summer of 1917, they were deployed to France. It was here that their lives would, unpredictably and inalterably, diverge. Members of different companies, they were sent their separate ways. Matheson fell on August 11, 1917, and Wilkins on September 27 of the same year.

Wilkins’ and Matheson’s photos would later appear in the *Trinity College Memorial Volume* with small daggers beside their names — like those of all Trinity students who served in The Great War but did not return home.

A total of 543 Trinity men travelled abroad to fight, joined by women of St. Hilda’s, who served as physicians, nurses, ambulance drivers and administrators. Of the Trinity men who left for the war, 57 never returned — 56 were killed in action, and one was missing. Of the Trinity survivors, 86 were wounded, and 149

received military honours. All those who were fortunate enough to return were forever changed.

“For many veterans, the war was a paradoxical experience,” says Jack Cunningham, program coordinator of The Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History. “It was characterized by fear, danger and discomfort, but it was also the most intense experience of their lives, and with profound bonds emerging among those who shared it.”

Women at home and on the front lines

By the third year of the war and for the first time in Trinity’s history, more women graduated from the College than men. In 1917, Trinity had only one male graduate. The massive shift in demographics meant new responsibilities and opportunities for women on campus, who took on key roles at the College, as teachers and leaders.

Among the first female lecturers were Christine Kammerer, who played on the St. Hilda’s hockey team before graduating in 1908 and becoming a popular house manager at the College, and

Mossie May Waddington '11 (later M.M. Kirkwood), who would go on to serve as the third Principal Emeritus of St. Hilda's, an honour bestowed by the students upon greatly loved teachers. She was also the Dean of Women during some of her 17 years of teaching in Trinity's English department.

Brave healer

Elsewhere, Trinity alumni were making significant contributions to the war effort. One notable example was Ethel Ridley. Ridley entered St. Hilda's College in 1891 and graduated with a BA in 1895. By 1897 she was a registered nurse and in 1898 and 1899 she served as nurse attached to the U.S. Army in the Spanish-American War. From October 1914 to December 1918, she served at military hospitals in England and France, including field hospitals that underwent shelling and bombardment, during which many of Ridley's colleagues were killed. She was made Matron, Principal Matron, and Matron-in-Chief, and received many decorations and medals, including a Star (1914), Royal Red Cross (1916), and various British Service medals. In 1918, Ridley was appointed Commander, Order of the British Empire.

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preserving our past

In Sylvia Lassam's office, you can look into the eyes of young men bound for war. Lined up on the fields of Trinity, they stare from a large photograph, so detailed that one imagines the feel of the air on their skin, the rough fabric of their uniforms, the sensation of a heel digging into the mud as they stand at attention.

As Trinity remembers the centenary of the First World War, Rolph-Bell Archivist Lassam would have loved to mount an exhibition of pieces — from a sword carried in battle to medals won on the field to scrapbooks pieced together by those at home — that tell the story of the College's war years. But she lacks the proper space for such a comprehensive retrospective. Until the relocated, expanded and modernized archive project is completed, these pieces remain tucked away in her office — in the same basement room that has housed the collection since Trinity's archives were founded in 1963.

The hope is that the new archives, the construction of which will begin in summer 2015, will be complete in time for Lassam to mark the anniversary of the end of the war in 2018. But more funds are still needed to realize the vision of a complete archives. This wealth of history deserves an accessible home, so that all who visit the College can look into the eyes of those who served, and remember both The Great War and the great change it heralded.



Victory Bonds poster courtesy of J.E. Sampson, Archives of Ontario War Poster Collection, C 233-2-0-1-296, Archives of Ontario. The Canadian government sold Victory Bonds to Canadian citizens, private corporations and various organizations in order to raise funds to pay for the war. The bonds were a loan to the government that could be redeemed with interest after five, 10 or 20 years and were released during five different campaigns between 1915 and 1919. Posters constantly urged everyone to purchase bonds. Women in the home put money aside from their housekeeping allowance and children were encouraged to collect thrift stamps that could be accumulated until enough had been saved to buy a Victory Bond. In 1915 \$100 million worth of Victory Bonds were issued and quickly purchased.

“When war broke out in 1914, Parker was put in charge of the efforts at Wellington House; history remembers him as the **most effective propaganda man** in residence.”

The propaganda man

Not long before Ethel Ridley set sail for England in 1914, a secret meeting was held at Wellington House in London. Twenty-three of the most recognized authors in British literature, including James Barrie, H.G. Wells and Thomas Hardy, had seats at the table. Rudyard Kipling and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle sent regrets to the meeting but a pledge of support to the cause: The creation of works to engage American neutrality for, then support of, and eventually involvement in the Allied war against Germany. Counted among

those brought into the fold was Sir Gilbert Parker.

By then an internationally recognized author, Parker had taught elocution at Trinity College years earlier. He left his studies due to the demand for his skill as a speaker, but was awarded an honorary degree from Trinity in 1899 (to rousing cheers and rounds of “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”).

Parker made his home in London, where he was elected to the House of Commons. He was knighted for his literary service and listed, by the *Montreal Gazette*, alongside Sir Wilfrid Laurier as one of the “greatest living Canadians.” When war broke out in 1914, Parker was put in charge of the efforts at Wellington House; history remembers him as the most effective propaganda man in residence.

Praised not only for his writing but for his strategic efforts to disseminate material in the United States, Parker studied the temperament of the press and university campuses and put together a comprehensive dossier that detailed not just who should be receiving material, but what kind of material would be the most effective. He established a unofficial network of 13,000 “influential” individuals (including senior reporters at the *New York Times*, a former Harvard president and Theodore Roosevelt)

distributing written reviews, editorials, speeches, sermons and published books. “We have an organization extraordinarily widespread in the United States,” he told cabinet in 1915, “but which does not know it is an organization.”

At the end of the war, most of the documents detailing the activities at Wellington House were destroyed. The operation remained a secret until 1935, when J.D. Squires published a book detailing the British government’s work with the writers. But even before Squires’ work, it was known that Parker had wielded extraordinary influence on the American perception of the war. Wrote Upton Sinclair in 1927, “I am one of the hundred and ten million suckers who swallowed the hook of the British official propaganda, conducted by an eminent bourgeois novelist, Gilbert Parker, who was afterwards knighted for what he did to me.”

Recommended reading

Of all the Trinity voices — past and present — contributing their perspectives on the First World War, one of the most eloquent and thought-provoking is that of Margaret MacMillan ’66. Internationally renowned historian and a leading expert on the causes and outcomes of the First World War, MacMillan was the 13th Provost of Trinity College from 2002-2007. Currently Warden of St. Antony’s College and a Professor of International History at the University of Oxford, MacMillan received international acclaim for her 2002 book *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World*. In late 2013, she released *The War that Ended Peace: The Road to 1914* (Random House). Heralded as

“magnificent” by *The Economist* and others, and named an Editor’s Choice of the *New York Times*, *The War that Ended Peace* begins in the early 19th century and ends with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, uncovering the huge political and technological changes, national decisions, and just as important, the small moments of human muddle and weakness that led Europe from peace to disaster.

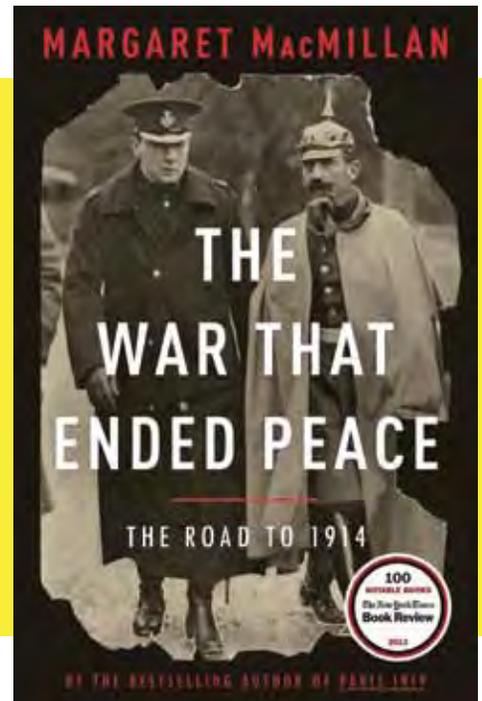
“The trouble with the First World War is that people think war was inevitable, but I don’t agree,” said MacMillan in an interview with the *Globe and Mail*. “If you look at the Cold War, you could argue that a war was bound to happen between the Soviet Union and its allies and the United States and its allies, but it didn’t. That’s an interesting comparison — why did it happen in one case when all the pressures were building up, and in the second case it didn’t? Even in peace time, there is always a potential for war, and of course during war, we’re always thinking about what peace might look like. Maintaining peace can be just as strenuous as winning a war. It doesn’t just happen. It takes statesmen and public opinion to push for settling disputes peacefully.”

The Trinity campus was touched on many levels by the events of the First World War. One hundred years later, a number of staff, students, faculty and alumni are working to ensure that those events are not forgotten. They have, in fact, shaped the Trinity of today in ways we may not even realize.

“One of the Great War’s positive legacies for Trinity College was the advent of International Relations as a distinct field of study, first in Britain, by academics and others who were eager

“These epic events, brilliantly described by one of our era’s most talented historians, warn of the dangers that arise when we fail to anticipate the consequences of our actions. This is one of the finest books I have ever read on the causes of World War I.”

– Madeleine Albright, former U.S. secretary of state



in memoriam event

Six hundred lives connected to the University of Toronto were claimed during the First World War. But, says Jack Cunningham, program coordinator at The Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History, the war is remembered incompletely. “We have vivid images of some aspects of it, certainly of the trenches of the Western Front and the misery of life in that environment. We have less vivid images of the euphoria and hysteria of the early wartime climate of opinion,” he says. In an attempt to explore a more comprehensive picture of the events of 1914-1918, The Bill Graham Centre is hosting a series of events that will continue throughout 2014.

The season of remembering will include a look at the war through the eyes of Sigmund Freud, Bertrand Russell and Romain Rolland (May 8, Munk School of Global Affairs) and a two-day conference that explores how the war years shaped the second half of the century (July 30-31, Isabel Bader Theatre). The events “will bring together some of the foremost scholars of the war, who have expertise in everything from strategy, diplomacy, and the war’s ramifications for the geopolitics of the subsequent century, to the home-front here in Canada,” says Cunningham.

On the evening of July 31, the sounds of regimental bands will fill Varsity Stadium as 5,000 veterans and civilians gather to acknowledge the centenary of the war. The public ceremony will feature military honour guards, and reflections on the events that changed not only the course of a generation but the course of the world. “In Memoriam is designed to commemorate the sacrifices of those Canadians, those residents of Toronto, those members of the University community, who died in that war or came back irreparably damaged,” says Cunningham. “And it’s intended to do that without either glorifying or condemning war. It is a commemorative event, not a polemical one.”

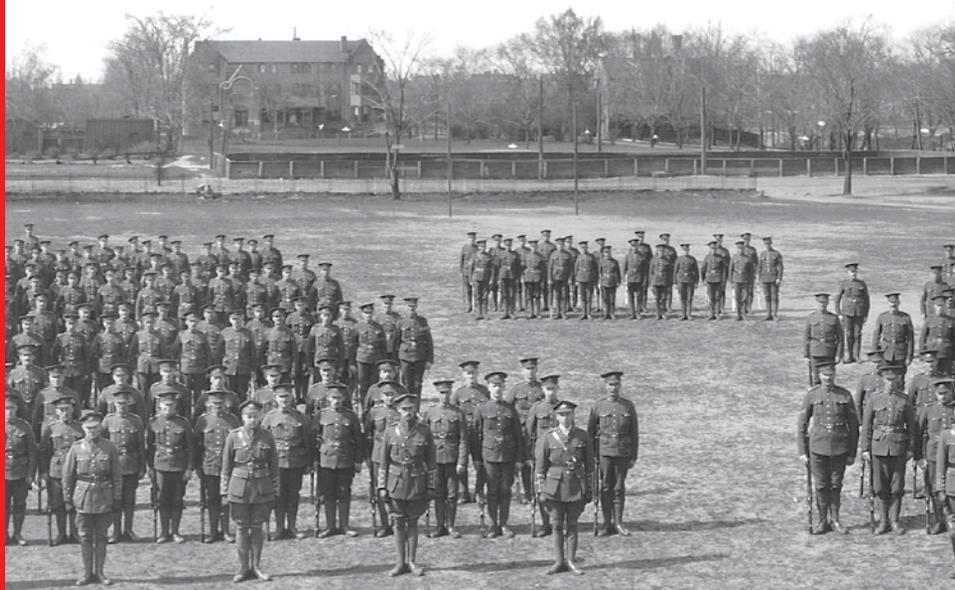
The 123rd Overseas Battalion,
Royal Grenadiers, CEF,
parading on the
Trinity College grounds,
May 12, 1916.

to understand the events that had led up to the war,” says MacMillan. Trinity’s own International Relations (IR) program was established in 1976, and combines the study of economics, history and political science to equip students with the analytical tools they need to understand the issues of international relations: the origins of war and the maintenance of peace; the nature and exercise of power within the international system; and the changing character of the state and non-state actors who participate in international decision-making.

Students at Trinity today study IR through standard programs or through the Margaret MacMillan Trinity One program. Says MacMillan, “I believe that by educating Trinity’s students in the complexities of international relations the College is helping to develop the thoughtful, insightful leaders of tomorrow — those who will understand that there is always a choice in the face of international crises, and who have the skills and the understanding to negotiate for peaceful solutions.” ▲

“Maintaining peace
can be just as strenuous
as winning a war.
It doesn’t just happen.”

– former Trinity Provost Margaret MacMillan



the fallen 1914-18

Of the 543 Trinity men who went to war 57 never returned —
56 were killed in action, and one was missing.

Henry Harold Allen '05
Thomas William Edward Allen '11
Gordon Stewart Andrews '10
William George Henry Bates '97
David Benjamin Bentley '91
George Herbert Bowlby '88
Thomas Pattison Camelon '90
Duncan Frederic Campbell '96
Robert Alexander Rankine Campbell '14
Adam Peden Chalmers '92
Paul Brooks Clarke '18
Allen Charles Mackenzie Cleghorn '92
Walter Henry T. Cooper '88
Ernest Herbert Cox '09
James Philip Crawford '06
John Arthur Cullum '05
Basil Lancelot Cumpston '15
Carl de Fallot '05
Robert John Gunn Dow '05

Roy Anderson Forsyth '16
Charles Randolph Gillan '15
Henry Arthur Harding '04
Webster Henry Fanning Harris '11
John Hatley '13
George Frederick Hayden Staff '14-'16
Henry Stuart Hayes '14
James Henderson '02
William Anderson Henderson '98
David Edwin Howes '06
James Hamilton Ingersoll '17
George Leycester Ingles '08
Harry Alexander Taylor Kennedy '16
Cleveland Keyes '15
Douglas Sherwood McCarter '18
Kenneth Ogilvie McEwen '98
John Dewar McMurrich '95
Maurice Irving Machell '12
Frederick John Strange Martin '96

Gordon McMichael Matheson '14
Henry Keble Merritt '86
Richard Arthur Mitchell '16
Herbert Stanley Monkman '06
John Ferguson Palling '88
Evan Edward Price '19
John Henry Ratz '95
Ronald E. Mackenzie Richards '16
Frederick William Rous '10
Jeffery Fielder Smith '06
Charles Ashbury Sparling '04
Frederick Ivanhoe Taylor '17
Richard Henry Thomson '18
Reginald Prinsep Wilkins '14
Matthew Maurice Wilson '18
Philip Hamilton Wilson '97
O. B. Wordsworth Staff '14-'15
Martin Cortlandt De Bude Young '17

