

Birdsong – A05

Guardian article by John Mullan:

- > "death comes so thick that the narrative cannot pause for individuals."
- > "The soldiers at the front have learnt to not be shocked, not even to be emotional, at any particular person's death,"
- > "Tens of thousands of men simply go missing,"
- > "a manipulation of the reader's sympathies."
- > "anyone can die at any moment."
- > "The novelist painfully manipulates the reader's emotions."

The Dying Kiss: Gender and Intimacy in the Trenches of World War 1 article:

- > "men nursed and fed their friends when ill; they bathed together; they held each other as they danced, and during the long winter months, wrapped blankets around each other."
- > "Many returned soldiers carried with them photographs of their dead comrades or small items that belonged to them,"

From Civilian to First World War Soldier:

- > "The Army was unprepared for the stampede of volunteers wanting to fight."
- > "in the chaos of early 1914, a blind eye was often turned to official standards."
- > "Within eight weeks nearly 750,000 men had enlisted."
- > "Men from every walk of life,"
- > "For many it was their first time away from home."
- > "others were made to wait many weeks before they received any uniform at all,"
- > "second lieutenants, were often only teenagers."

Radio 5 interview with Sebastian Faulks:

- > "suffocating reality"
- > "they thought it would all be over by tea time"
- > "there seemed to be some sort of block in people's memories about it"
- > "particularly futile"

Alcohol and the First World War article:

- > "In August 1914 Tsar Nicholas II outlawed the production and sale of vodka."
- > "In October 1915 the British government announced several measures they believed would reduce alcohol consumption."
- > "The maximum penalty for defying the Government order was six months' imprisonment."
- > "Public House opening times in cities and industrial areas were also reduced."
- > "The advertising of alcohol in the area was banned."

Daily Express article – Meeting the enemy:

- > "the sheer pointlessness of some of the sacrifice"
- > "there remained a previously untold camaraderie between the British and Germans throughout the war."
- > "humanity could survive despite the circumstances."

The real story of the Christmas truce article:

- > "The following day, British and German soldiers met in no man's land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some played impromptu games of football."
- > "casualties did occur on Christmas Day. Some officers were unhappy at the truce and worried that it would undermine fighting spirit."
- > "High commands on both sides tried to prevent any truces on a similar scale happening again."
- > "there were some isolated incidents of soldiers holding brief truces later in the war."
- > "brief pauses in the hostilities were sometimes tacitly agreed, allowing both sides to repair their trenches or gather their dead."