

November-18



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

An excerpt from For the Fallen by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), published in The Times newspaper on 21 September 1914.

It's now commonly read at Memorial Services, particularly on Remembrance Day, November 11th when the UK remembers all those who have lost their life in conflict.

It's estimated that around 10 million military personal lost their lives during World War One, along with 8 million civilians. The loss of life is tragically huge on both sides. It is hard to comprehend just how many people died. My Great-Great Uncle Albert Giles was one of them. He lies in a military graveyard in Northern France.

Every November 11th, at 11am we hold a 2 minute silence to remember the fallen. For me this has always meant the fallen on both sides of the war and every war since. Millions of men on both sides died, they all deserve to be remembered.

During World War One all army uniforms were dull khaki coloured. The bright red dress uniforms used by the British Army during the Victorian era had finally been replaced the official Service Dress in 1902. Camouflage had become more important than tradition, though the change in uniform colour wasn't popular initially. The United States Army first adopted khaki during the Spanish-American war of 1898, troops complained about the colour until the 1950s when it was replaced with a cooler grey-green which is still in use today.

The word is yet another example of the English language borrowing words, khaki is Urdu for dusty. It was first used by Sir Harry Lumsden to cloth a Corps of Guides in Peshawar. He wanted his men to blend in to the landscape so bought up metres of cloth in the local market, and ordered it be rubbed with mud from the local river. As time went on mud was replaced with any dye stuff that could be obtained; coffee, tea, and curry powders. The colour spread through the Indian Army, and to the rest of the British Army, and eventually to the armies of other nations. By 1898 when the colour was used for American Army uniforms the colour would have been dyed using synthetic aniline dyes, probably chrome based.

Katie

Further Reading-

A Street Near You- <https://astreetnearyou.org/>

Searchable by location, this is map shows the addresses of Commonwealth soldiers who died during WWI

Commonwealth War Graves Association- <https://www.cwgc.org>

They care for the graves of 1.7million service men and women who died during both World Wars. If you know the name of a relative who died during the conflicts you can search to find the cemetery where they might be buried

Remembering the German Soldiers who lost their lives.

<https://www.dw.com/en/the-german-soldiers-that-history-forgot/a-6218386>

Images from the Museum at FIT, New York of the US Army's first khaki uniform

<https://twitter.com/museumatFIT/status/1060973494849159169>

The Russian Army during World War One-

<https://ww2-weapons.com/russian-army/>