

IN FLANDERS FIELDS WHERE THE POPPIES BLOW...

... THE BONES OF YOUNG MEN CONTINUE TO RISE FROM THE
GROUND TOGETHER WITH SHELLS AND WEAPONS ...

THE WHITE POPPY

Just a few years after the first Armistice Day (what we now call Remembrance Day) many people started to feel that what began as a ceremony to comfort grieving relatives after a disastrous war was becoming a glorification of the dead, and admiration of the living participants.

By implication many felt this was justifying the very values which caused the war in the first place.

The red poppy became associated with fundraising for injured veterans and its black centre was embossed with the name of Douglas Haig, commander-in-chief of the disastrous battle of the Somme. Opponents of the war as well as some veterans thought this inappropriate and suggested the centre should have the word 'peace' instead. Nothing came of this.

As the terms of the Peace Treaty unravelled and political timidity did little to calm international tensions, a new war appeared imminent. The heartfelt wish of millions of people around the world that the war they had fought was the 'war to end all wars' was not fulfilled by political leaders.

It was in this climate that those who had objected to the war, many who had been imprisoned, some condemned to death and many of whom were mothers, sisters, widows and sweethearts of men killed in the First World War, that the white poppy was born.

'a Pledge to Peace that war must not happen again'
is how the white poppy was described at its launch in 1933, We still have
some way to go,

Today, 90 years after the war each spring when fields are ploughed, hundreds of tons of still lethal ammunition are dug up, collected and finally destroyed.

White poppies and education resources at
www.whitepoppy.org.uk
white poppies are for peace without war



Through text, audio and video **Voices for Peace interactive** explores the little known history of Remembrance Day, the centuries old struggle for peace and an exploration of the deeper cause of war.

Peace Pledge Union
working for peace without
violence since 1934
www.ppu.org.uk

... which were made by their mothers, wives and sweethearts back home. It was not only the men who pulled the triggers that did the killing.

In Britain and Germany women worked tirelessly to ensure their menfolk had enough ammunition to kill each other. Despite the killing nothing was resolved and even more killing followed a few years later. Until we realise that war is neither desirable nor inevitable and that it is better to prepare for peace rather than war, the cruel waste of lives and resources will continue.

More at www.whitepoppy.org



Walk to lay a wreath of white poppies at the Cenotaph in London on Remembrance Day.