



POSTERS







of the

FIRST WORLD WAR







EJ KEALEY, WOMEN OF BRITAIN SAY 'GOI', 1915, GREAT BRITAIN © IMM (ARTIMM PST 2763) UNKNOWN, THERE IS STILL A PLACE IN THE LINE FOR YOU, 1915, GREAT BRITAIN © IMM (ARTIMM PST 0316)

DATE UNKNOWN, GERMANY © IWM (ARTIWM PST 7328)

F.R. JOIN THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, 1918, GREAT BRITAIN © IWM (ARTIWM PST 5277)

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UNKNOWN, ALCOHOL EXTINGUISHES THE MAN TO AROUSE THE BEAST, 1915, FRANCE © IWM (ARTHWM PST 4760) UNKNOWN, ABSINTH SENDS YOU MAD, 1916, FRANCE © IWM (ARTHWM PST 4765) UNKNOWN, ALL ALCOHOLS ARE POISONS, 1915, FRANCE © IWM (ARTHWM PST 4767) UNKNOWN, A DRINKER'S HOUSE, AN UNHAPPY HOUSE, 1915, FRANCE © IWM (ARTHWM PST 4763)

POSTERS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR



IWM holds over 20,000 posters in its collections, dating from the First World War to the present day. For more information visit iwm.org.uk

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INTRODUCTION BY NIGEL STEEL
IMAGE SELECTION BY RICHARD SLOCOMBE

































HEARTS AND MINDS

THE MASS APPEAL OF POSTERS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Despite the enmity and hatred generated by the First World War, the warring nations all experienced a great deal in common. People suffered intense loss, homes were destroyed by bombing and fighting, and food ran short. But despite these terrible things, most of those that took part remained committed to the war until the very end. The civilians back home continued to believe in the justice of their cause as strongly as the men at the front.

One of the reasons for this was their careful manipulation by governments that needed everyone to believe their struggle was right and their sacrifices equally shared. To do this, civilian and military leaders had to find a vehicle for mass communication, something that both stirred the hearts and stimulated the minds of their nations. Not yet equipped with radio or cinema, let alone television, the medium they used with remarkable skill was the poster.

Across the years 1914 to 1918, no other form of popular appeal had such a profound effect on the lives of ordinary people as the poster. Posters were everywhere: in railway stations, in city centres, on buses and on walls, subliminally influencing people as they walked casually down the street. Each nation had its own distinct styles and designs. But their purpose was all the same – to bind people together, and to uphold their consent in the war.

This book includes only a relatively small selection of the thousands of First World War posters collected by the Imperial War Museum since its foundation in 1917. It is not a comprehensive account of how posters developed or steered global populations at times of crisis, but gives a feel for the dynamism and energy of this popular medium at possibly the zenith of its influence. It includes many well-known posters produced by the war's leading nations, comparing and contrasting national and international messages and aesthetic styles to show how the poster emerged as probably the world's most democratic art form.

The first concerted poster campaign was launched in Britain during September 1914 to maintain the numbers of men coming forward to enlist. Over 200,000 men had already joined up and the first posters produced by the new Parliamentary Recruiting Committee (PRC) presented only plain, factual calls to action. But, as the initial surge in recruits levelled off, something more dramatic was needed. The answer lay in pictorial posters.

The PRC had no experience of using popular media to launch such a wide appeal. For this, despite some initial reservations about its perceived vulgarity, they turned to the advertising industry. Towards the end of November 1914 new posters began to appear. Well designed, brightly coloured and highly emotive, they were commercially guided and began to sell complex ideas of duty and national service like soap or breakfast cereals.

By the end of 1915, the PRC had produced over 12 million posters using 164 distinct designs. Many were hard-hitting and powerful, stirring people's

consciences and probing their sense of moral integrity. But this approach proved the least successful. More popular were designs that evoked a sense of comradeship. As has often been the case for the British people, self-deprecating humour and a light touch proved more effective than moral blackmail. Smiling soldiers enjoying each other's company sold the war much better than a sense of shame.

These same values were shared across the British Empire. Men from all its countries were inspired by similar messages to join up to defend their way of life. But the posters, particularly from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa, were keen to emphasise the unique traits that already made their countries different. By identifying these soldiers with their own lands, posters helped promote a growing sense of national pride within the shared experience of the war.

In France, Germany and Austria-Hungary there was no need for the state to launch a call for new recruits. These countries all based their large armies on the principle of national service. Instead the need to shore up popular support for the war came as money and resources began to run short. Increasing numbers of posters began to appear from 1916 appealing for funds to support their respective war efforts, and consolidating widespread consent to the continuation of the struggle. Yet, although the various national campaigns shared many characteristics, each one was clearly distinct.

In Germany the message of the posters was direct and authoritarian, reflecting German society and its domination by the ruling Prussian elite. People expected to be told, not implored, and to obey, not just agree. The individualism of the liberal democracies of France and Britain were seen as weak and decadent, whereas from their commitment to the state the Germans drew strength and unity. Unable to raise money for their war economy through the international money markets, the German government was forced to launch a series of war loans, asking people to invest in the state to finance the war. Inspired by clever poster campaigns, Germany succeeded in covering 60 per cent of its war costs in this way.

A few years before the war, a new style of poster had emerged in Germany. Known as the 'object poster', it used arresting colours, a clear central product and a snappy, easily-understood punchline to bind the design tightly together. Instead of using the picture simply as an illustration, it became an integral part of the poster's overall aesthetic. Simple but powerful, the 'object poster' provided the template for many wartime images.

In Austria-Hungary too the emphasis was on the high quality of a poster's design. Tending towards the abstract and culturally refined, Austro-Hungarian posters often lacked passion and urgency. They did not generate the mass emotional appeals seen in British recruitment posters. Austria-Hungary had to be careful. It was a cosmopolitan assembly of many different ethnic groups. If campaigns appealed too strongly to any one of these by highlighting individual folk traditions or regional characteristics, they risked promoting latent desires for independence and autonomy. Although discernible in many Austro-Hungarian posters, these differences remained tightly controlled.

Instead, like Germany itself, Austro-Hungarian designs fell back on a romanticised sense of German culture. In both countries, using a palette of perceived German colours – brown, dark red and gold reflecting the widespread forests, wine harvests and the autumn fall – posters were dominated by images of medieval chivalry and Teutonic knights willing to make the ultimate blood sacrifice for the Fatherland. Swords were prominent, linking the distant past to the current reality of industrialised modern weapons, along with ancient dragon-like monsters, a deadly enemy to be slain on the battlefield.

In France it was all very different. Although it too fell back on its history and cultural heritage, its national poster campaigns were the antithesis of the militarism and authoritarianism of Germany and Austria-Hungary. France was a republic and proud of it. It claimed to have existed since the Revolution as an egalitarian society that cherished regional diversity. Being French was temperamental, not racial. People felt French because they shared values and a common past.

French posters adopted a more realistic style. Emotional impact was achieved through the representation of clearly recognisable people. They were not sentimentalised or comic, as in British posters, or heroic, like the Germans. Ordinary French soldiers were drawn from life, from the men passing through the stations of Paris on the way back to the front. Women became Marianne, the traditional emblem of Republican France. Both lived in a landscape that supported and nurtured them. It was a clear national aesthetic, serious and austere that reflected the gravitas of the threat to France levelled by the war.

The United States too was a republic. But it was brash and energetic, and, once part of the war, saw the struggle as a crusade for democracy itself. America's powerful self-confidence jumped out of the images it used both to raise funds and enlist volunteers. The commercial pressures seen at the height of the PRC's campaign in Britain in 1915 reasserted themselves in America in 1917–1918. Loud colours and words, feisty men and women, promises of salvation, all tumbled out of over 700 poster designs produced in the United States. Moving the agenda back to where it had started almost three years earlier, the advertising men once again made the war a national cause.

The posters of the First World War provide a sharp and vibrant reflection of the underlying beliefs and values of this devastating global event. The balance of the design changes from country to country. The message they carry shifts from year to year. But, despite this, they remain arresting and appealing to this day. The artists and printers who created them established enduring works of popular art that still convey the strength and determination of every country to prevail. These posters remind us then of the real tragedy of the First World War – that the people of so many nations across both Europe and the world each believed their own cause to be right, and the war to be just.

Nigel Steel, Principal Historian
First World War Centenary Programme

G.



R.

"ENGLAND EXPECTS WAN TO DO HIS DUTY"

AND

JOIN THE ARMY TO-DAY

PUBLISHED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY RECRUITING COMP

H T. & Co., W. 78to-14

OF THE PARTY OF TH



JOIN YOUR COUNTRY'S ARMY! GOD SAVE THE KING

Reproduced by permission of LONDON OPINION

ALFRED LEETE, BRITONS, JOIN YOUR COUNTRY'S ARMY!, 1914, GREAT BRITAIN

YOUNG WOMEN OF LONDON

Is your "Best Boy" wearing Khaki? If not don't YOU THINK he should be?

If he does not think that you and your country are worth fighting for—do you think he is **WORTHY** of you?

Don't pity the girl who is alone—her young man is probably a soldier—fighting for her and her country—and for YOU.

If your young man neglects his duty to his King and Country, the time may come when he will NEGLECT YOU.

Think it over-then ask him to

JOIN THE ARMY TO-DAY

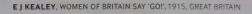
Frinted by David Allen & Sone Ltd., Harrew, Lendon, etc.



UNKNOWN, THERE IS STILL A PLACE IN THE LINE FOR YOU, 1915, GREAT BRITAIN



GO!





SAVILE LUMLEY, DADDY, WHAT DID YOU DO IN THE GREAT WAR?, 1915, GREAT BRITAIN

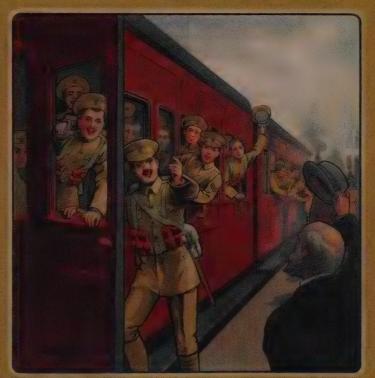
IF THE CAP FITS YOU



JOIN THE ARMY TO-DAY.

UNKNOWN, IF THE CAP FITS YOU JOIN THE ARMY TODAY, DATE UNKNOWN, GREAT BRITAIN

THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU



ENLIST TO-DAY

PODLISHED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY RECRUITING COMMITTEE CONCOR. FORTER N. 172

PRINTED BY WM. STRAIN & SORS, LIE. BELFAFF; AND 104 WIGH HOLEDAR, LORDON, W.E.

WHO'S ABSENT?





Js it you?

UNKOWN, WHO'S ABSENT?, 1915, GREAT BRITAIN

FORWARD!



Forward to Victory
ENLIST NOW

LUCY KEMP-WELCH, FORWARD!, 1915, GREAT BRITAIN

© IWM (Art.IWM PST 5031)

TO ARMS!

Samples of

PURE GRIT

Are to be met in abundance in all Training Camps.

GAME COCKS

Cleaning their Spurs.

BIRDS OF THE FEATHER

Welcomed by Fellow-Sports.

NIP INTO THE RING, COBBER,

.. and ..

WIN FAME!

"STIFFEN THE SINEWS, SUMMON UP THE BLOOD!"

(Sgd.) J. NEWLAND, Chairman State Recruiting Committee, 4th Military District.

FORTHEGLORYOFIRELAND

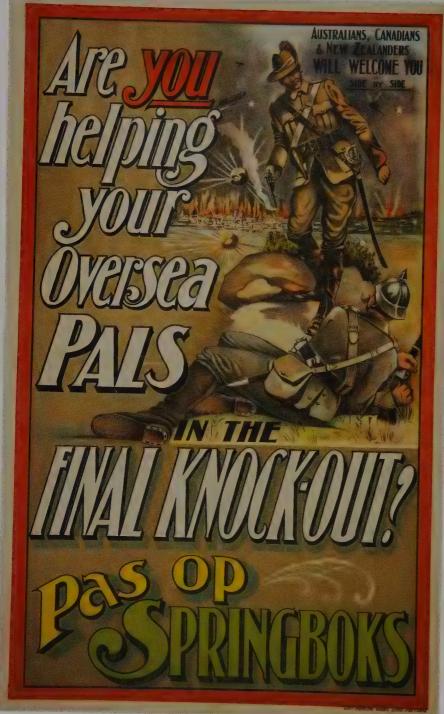


WILLYOU GO OR MUSTI?

Horse's Emergen Levin Duoria Post

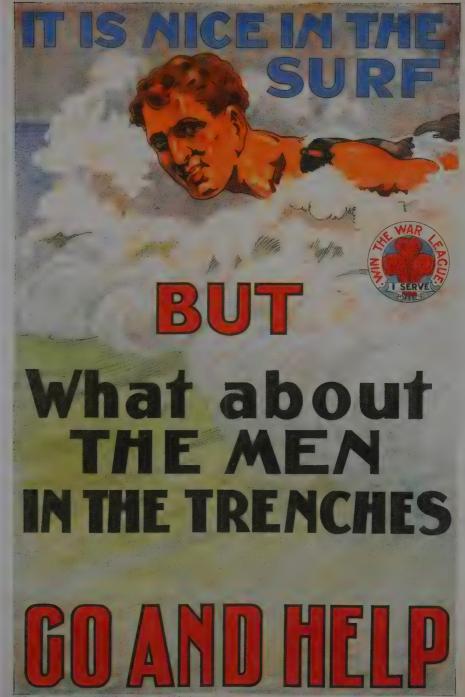
UNKNOWN, FOR THE GLORY OF IRELAND, 1915, IRELAND





A HOLLAND, ARE YOU HELPING YOUR OVERSEAS PALS IN THE FINAL KNOCKOUT?, C.1916, SOUTH AFRICA





DAVID HENRY SOUTER, IT IS NICE IN THE SURF BUT WHAT ABOUT THE MEN IN THE TRENCHES, 1917, AUSTRALIA



UNKNOWN, THE NAVY WANTS MEN, 1917, CANADA



NORMAN ALFRED WILLIAM LINDSAY, ? (THE QUESTION MARK), 1918, AUSTRALIA







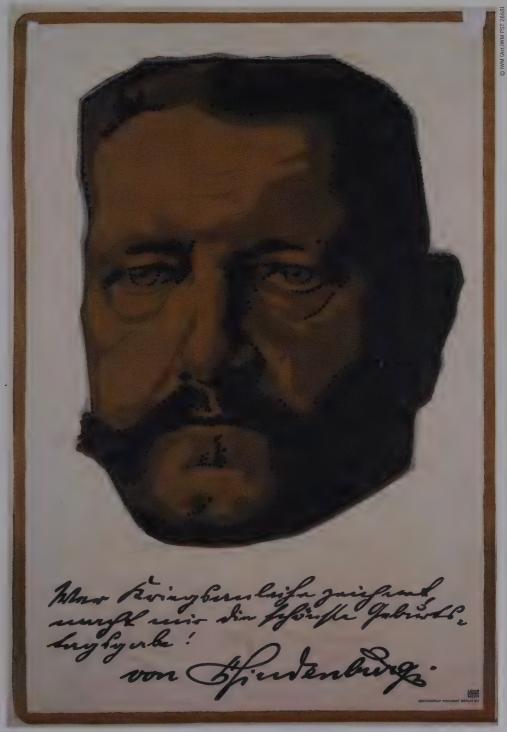
CRUSH THE GERMANS

PUBLISHED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY WAR SAVINGS COMMITTEE, LONDON POSTER Nº23

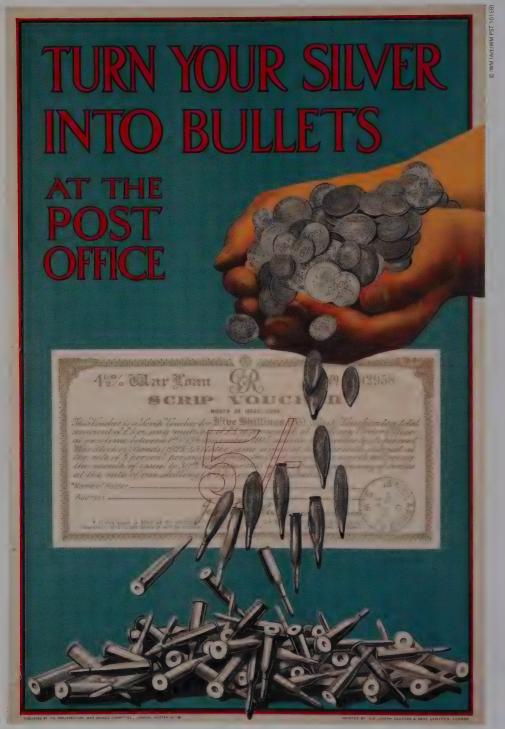
CONTROL OF DAVID ALLEN & SONS 19 HARROW MICH BASK WALL SON 7/6



HEINRICH LEFLER, SUBSCRIBE TO THE FOURTH WAR LOAN, 1916, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



LOUIS OPPENHEIM, ANYONE WHO SUBSCRIBES TO THE WAR LOAN IS GIVING ME THE SUPREME BIRTHDAY PRESENT – VON HINDENBURG, 1917, GERMANY



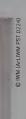
UNKNOWN, TURN YOUR SILVER INTO BULLETS, 1915, GREAT BRITAIN



LOUIS OPPENHEIM, THE BEST SAVINGS BANK - THE WAR LOAN!, 1918, GERMANY



A S, SUBSCRIBE TO THE FIFTH AUSTRIAN WAR LOAN, 1916, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY





ADOLF KARPELLUS, SUBSCRIBE TO THE FOURTH AUSTRIAN WAR LOAN, 1916, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY





GYÖRGY KÜRTHY, SUBSCRIBE TO THE WAR LOAN - FOR THEM TO RETURN SOON, 1917, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



GEORGES SCOTT, FOR THE FLAG! FOR VICTORY!, 1917, FRANCE

Helft uns siegen!



zeichnet Kriegsanleihe

Beimurg: Prof. Fritz Erier, München.

FRITZ ERLER, HELP US WIN!, 1917, GERMANY

rade Bullerbaum & Bolomide a. ...



BÉLA MOLDOVÁN, SUBSCRIBE TO THE WAR LOAN, 1918, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY





EMIL RANZENHOFER, SUBSCRIBE TO THE EIGHTH WAR LOAN!, 1918, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



ANTAL WEISS, SUBSCRIBE TO THE WAR LOAN AT FABANK!, 1918, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



KUK-HOFL~

JULIUS KLINGER, EIGHTH WAR LOAN, 1918, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



Zeichnet Zei

k.k.pr.öst. L.C. I.Am Hof 6 und VII. Mariahilferstr. 60

Druck der Gesellschaft für graphische ledustnie Wien Vi

ALFRED ROLLER, WHAT ABOUT YOU? SUBSCRIBE TO THE SEVENTH WAR LOAN, 1917, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



BUY NATIONAL WAR BONDS (\$5 to \$5000) AND WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES 15/6

CELIFFO BY THE SOUTHER WAS LANGUE POWERFOR AN ARRIVES STREET STUBBLISHED

W. - 2000 V. V. - 2 14 WILLIAM CO.

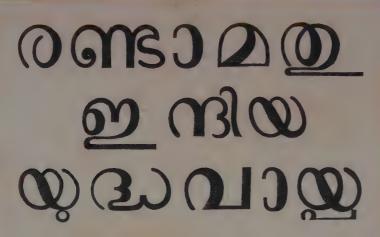


A E, MY DADDY BOUGHT ME A WAR LOAN BOND, DATE UNKNOWN, AUSTRALIA

ALL CANADIANS
BUSY

WICTORY BONDS

UNKNOWN, KEEP ALL CANADIANS BUSY, 1918, CANADA





നിന്തളടെ ഉറ്റപ്പിക സ്വരാതൃസംരക്ഷണക്കായി വായ്പ്പാകാടത്ത് ന്റ്വ്വൻകാരര നശിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ സഹായിക്കുക

UNKNOWN, LEND YOUR FIVE SHILLINGS, DATE UNKNOWN, INDIA





wo

LA BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA

REDDITO 555%

BARCHI, SUBSCRIBE, C.1917, ITALY



UNKNOWN, ALL FOR WAR! - SUBSCRIBE TO THE FIVE AND A HALF PER CENT WAR LOAN, 1916, RUSSIA







PETER BUTCHKIN, FREEDOM LOAN - WAR UNTIL VICTORY, 1917, RUSSIA

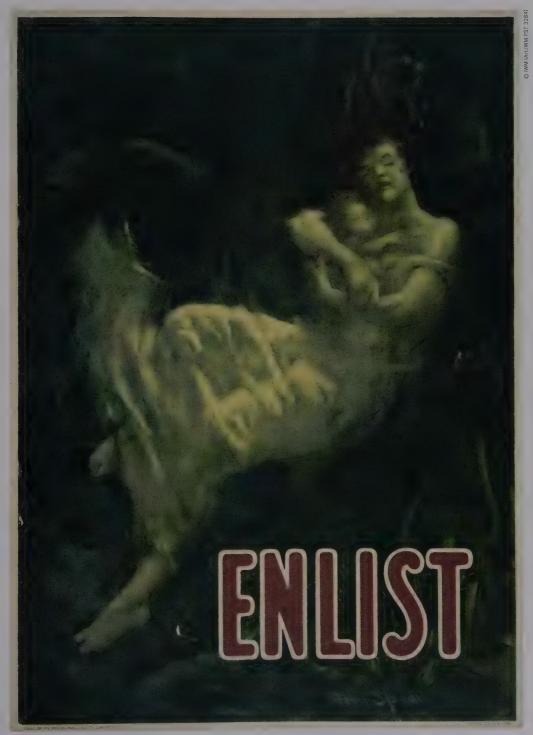


BORIS MIKAJLOVICH KUSTODIEV, FREEDOM LOAN, 1917, RUSSIA



I WANT YOU FOR U.S. ARMY

NEAREST RECRUITING STATION



FRED SPEAR, ENLIST, DATE UNKNOWN, USA





NAVY AND NAVAL RESERVE RECRUITING STATION







Sibst Du auch oft und vielerlei: Ein gutes Buch sei stets dabei!

OSWALD WEISE, GOOD BOOKS - GOOD COMRADES, 1916, GERMANY



ERICH GRÜNER, KAISER'S AND PEOPLE'S THANKS, 1917, GERMANY



ORSZÁGOS HADIGONDOZÓ KIÁLLITÁS POZSONY-1917: JUL: AUG.

PÁL SUJÁN, NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF WAR-INVALID CARE, 1917, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



© DACS 2013 (Art.IWM PST 11286)

Kaiseru-Volksdank für fleer und Floise

Frankfurier Weilmachisgabe 1917

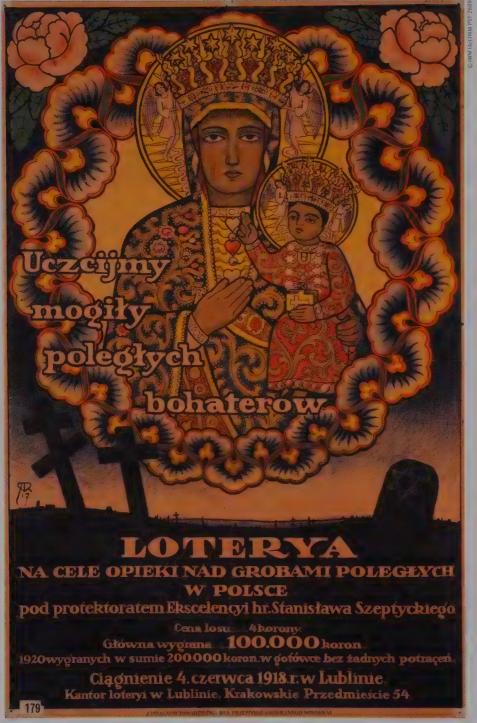
> Geldspenden: heaferplaiz 14, Bűro 5

LINA VON SCHAUROTH, IMPERIAL AND POPULAR CHARITY FUND FOR THE ARMY AND NAVY, 1917, GERMANY













MIHÁLY BIRÓ, ARTISTS' LOTTERY, C.1917, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



HANS RUDI ERDT, WITH OUR BOYS IN BLUE, 1917, GERMANY



GEORGES DOLA, ALLIES' CINEMA CONCERT, 1918, FRANCE

LIGUE NATIONALE CONTRE L'ALCOOLISME

Celui qui en use, s'use

UNKNOWN, ALCOHOL STIMULATES BUT EXHAUSTS - THOSE WHO USE IT WEAR THEMSELVES OUT, 1915, FRANCE

LIGUE NATIONALE CONTRE L'ALCOOLISME

L'Alcool éteint l'Ho pour allumer la .

UNKNOWN, ALCOHOL EXTINGUISHES THE MAN TO AROUSE THE BEAST, 1915, FRANCE

LIGUE NATIONALE CONTRE L'ALCOOLISME

REND EO

UNKNOWN, ABSINTH SENDS YOU MAD, 1916, FRANCE

LIGUE NATIONALE CONTRE L'ALCOOLISME

ous les Alcools sont des Poisons

UNKNOWN, ALL ALCOHOLS ARE POISONS, 1915, FRANCE

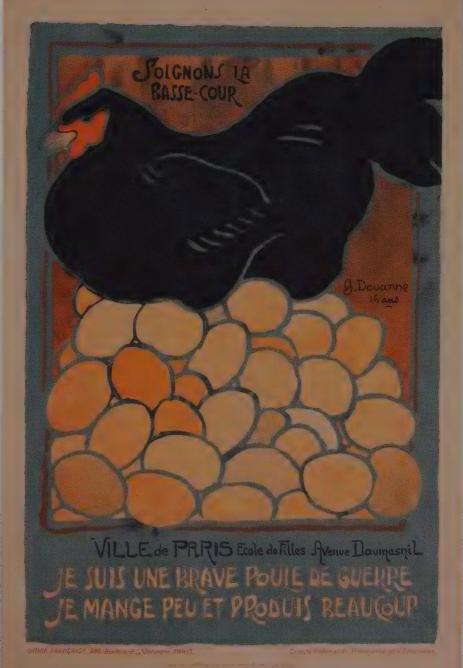
LIGUE NATIONALE CONTRE L'ALCOCLISME

aison de Buveur **Maison de Malheur**

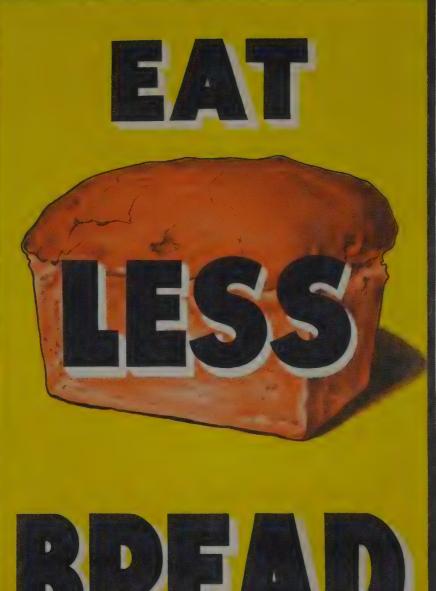
UNKNOWN, A DRINKER'S HOUSE, AN UNHAPPY HOUSE, 1915, FRANCE

62

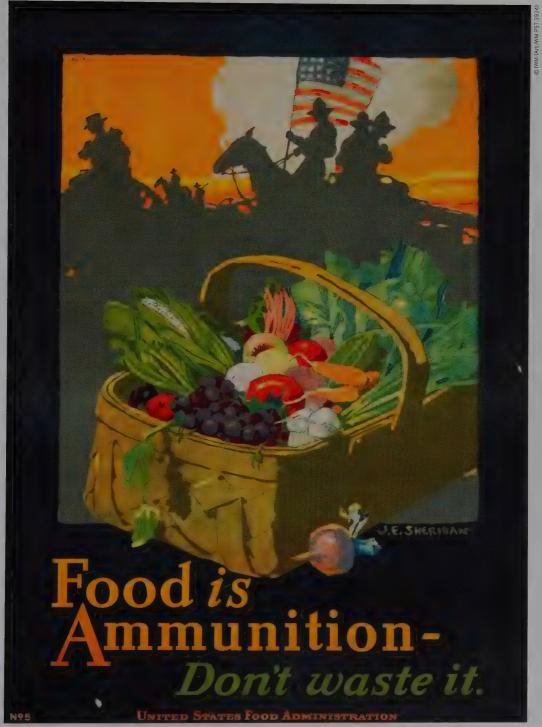




G DOUANNE, LET'S LOOK AFTER THE FARMYARD, 1916, FRANCE



UNKNOWN, EAT LESS BREAD, 1917, GREAT BRITAIN



JOHN E SHERIDAN, FOOD IS AMMUNITION - DON'T WASTE IT, 1918, USA



Frauen und Mädchen! Sammelf Frauenhaar!

Abnahmesielle jede Schule

Ortsausschuß für Sammel- und Helferdienst Töpfergasse 33

JUPP WIERTZ, COLLECT WOMEN'S HAIR!, 1918, GERMANY

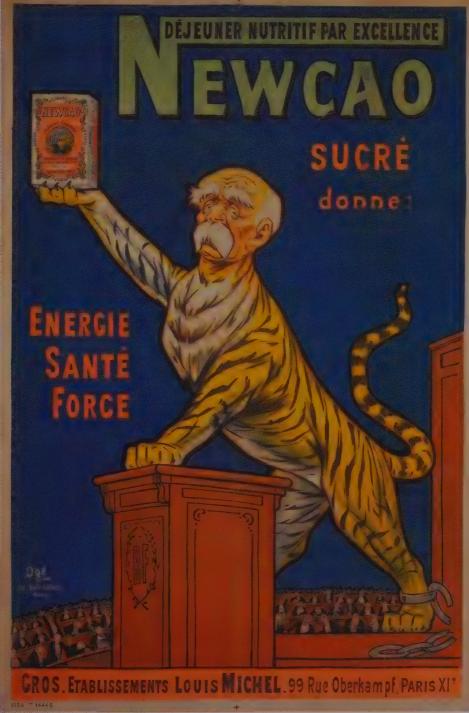


FRANZ GRIESSLER, GENERAL COLLECTION OF LAUNDRY, 1917, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



UNKNOWN, STOP HIM!, C.1916, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY





UNKNOWN, NEWCAO - NUTRITIOUS BREAKFAST PAR EXCELLENCE, 1917, FRANCE



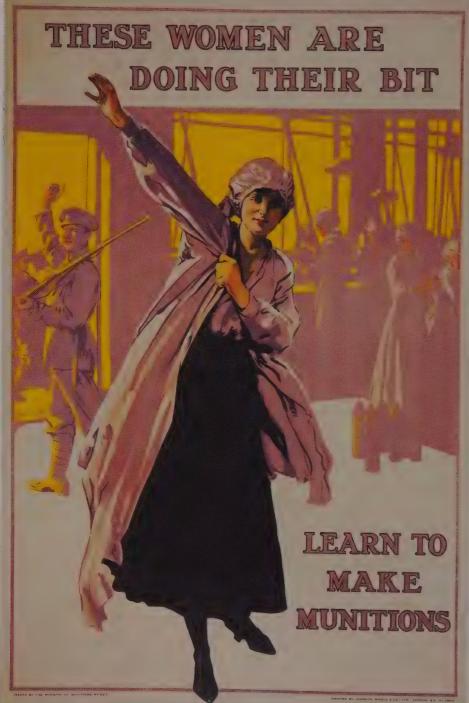
JULIUS GIPKENS, IF YOU WANT OIL, COLLECT BEECHNUTS!, 1918, GERMANY



AUSSTELLUNG L'AL ABTEILUNG: WIRTSCHAFTSVERBAND DER LEDERVERARBEITENDEN GEWERBE

FRITZ GAREIS, EXHIBITION OF SUBSTITUTE MATERIALS, 1918, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY





SEPTIMUS SCOTT, THESE WOMEN ARE DOING THEIR BIT, 1916, GREAT BRITAIN



ALEXANDER M CAY, THROUGH WORK TO VICTORY! THROUGH VICTORY TO PEACE!, 1918, GERMANY



SEND THE EAGLE'S ANSWER MORE SHIPS

UNITED STATES SHIPPING BOARD **MERGENCY FLEET CORPORATION**



Was England will!



"Man muss die rheinischen Industriegebiete mit hundert Flugzeugen Tag für Tag bombardieren, bis die Kur angeschlagen hat!"

DRUCK: SELMAR BAYER, BERLIN SO. 36

EGON TSCHIRCH, WHAT ENGLAND WANTS!, 1918, GERMANY

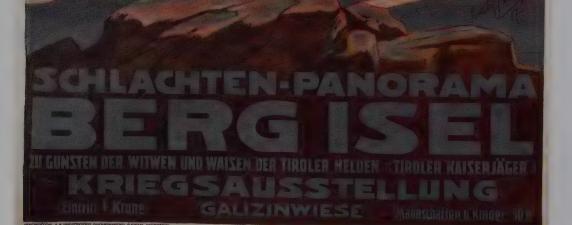


JOYCE DENNYS, WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE, DATE UNKNOWN, GREAT BRITAIN

NATIONAL SERVICE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY GOD SPEED THE PLOUGH AND THE WOMAN WHO DRIVES IT APPLY FOR ENROLMENT FORMS AT YOUR NEAREST POST OFFICE OR

HENRY GEORGE GAWTHORN, NATIONAL SERVICE – WOMEN'S LAND ARMY – GOD SPEED THE PLOUGH AND THE WOMAN WHO DRIVES IT, 1917, GREAT BRITAIN





OSWALD HENGST, BATTLE PANORAMA - ISEL MOUNTAIN, 1917, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



Zviegsauleihe

26774

Rithe Drud Editein & Otthie, Ral Softweitunftalt, Gastigunt.

KARL SIGRIST, SUBSCRIBE TO THE WAR LOAN, 1918, GERMANY



PAUL NEUMANN, THE EIGHTH WAR LOAN IS THE FINAL BLOW, 1918, GERMANY



HANU SVOBODA, SUBSCRIBE TO THE FIFTH WAR LOAN, 1916, AUSTRIA-HUNGARY



FRANK BRANGWYN, PUT STRENGTH IN THE FINAL BLOW – BUY WAR BONDS, 1918, GREAT BRITAIN



CRWNEVINSON, NOW - BACK THE BAYONETS, 1918, GREAT BRITAIN



HARRY S BRESSLER, HELP UNCLE SAM STAMP OUT THE KAISER - BUY US GOV'T BONDS, 1918, USA



The Hun-his Mark

Blot it Out

with

LIBERTY BONDS

J. Alken St. John

.



UNKNOWN, BUY WAR BONDS NOW, 1918, GREAT BRITAIN







LITHOGRULDRUCK: DECWOLF U. SOHN, MUNCHEN.

WALTER DITZ, FLAG DAY - BURN SACRED FLAME BURN, BURN AND NEVER CEASE TO BURN FOR THE FATHERLAND, 1918, GERMANY



THÉOPHILE ALEXANDRE STEINLEN, LIBERATED REGIONS DAY, 1919, FRANCE



J SENTREIN, LIBERATED BELGIUM, 1919, BELGIUM



L'Alcool excite mais épuise Celui qui en use, s'use

L'Alcool éteint l'Homme pour allumer la Bête

LIGUE NATIONALE CONTRE L'ALCOOLISME

LABSINTHE REND FO

Tous les Alcools sont des Poisons

Maison de Buyeur Maison de Malheur







Between 1914 and 1918, no other form of popular appeal had such a profound effect on the lives of ordinary people as the poster. Posters were everywhere: in railway stations, in city centres, on buses and on walls. Bright colours and sharp words leapt out and subliminally influenced people even as they walked down the street. Each nation had its own distinct styles and designs. But the purpose of them all was the same — to bind people together and uphold their consent in the war.

Reproduced in full colour with an introduction by Nigel Steel, IWM's Principal Historian for the First World War Centenary, this book gives a feel for the dynamism and energy of this popular medium at the height of its influence. It includes many well-known posters produced by the leading nations that took part in the war, comparing and contrasting them to show how the poster emerged, above all, as the world's most democratic art form.







