

## First World War family history

2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WW1. But what did it mean to the ordinary people of Lancashire? The soldiers, their families and the workers back home who kept the country going?

The Europeana 1914-18 archive will provide some answers, preserve generations of stories and bring people closer to those who witnessed the war at first hand.

In Preston, over 2,000 men lost their lives during the war – 2% of the population. Yet despite the sacrifice, Lancashire people kept going with local furniture companies producing aircraft wings and women working as “Munitionettes” in shell factories, or as tram and bus conductors. While WW1 spelt disaster for Lancashire’s cotton mills, with a loss of manpower and important export markets disrupting trade, locals were always there to support the “tank banks” – tanks that were driven across the county to collect cash for the war effort. These were later used as war memorials in many local towns.

Europeana is Europe’s digital library, archive and museum. It launched its 1914-1918 family history project in Germany in 2011 to collect memorabilia and family stories from combat and the home front. Nine family history roadshows were held in major cities across Germany and so far we’ve recorded over 25,000 digital images. These include: unpublished diaries, hand-drawn maps, portraits, sketches and photographs recording life under fire and on the home front. The project is being rolled-out across 10 countries in Europe to create a unique pan-European virtual archive of WW1.

## World War One 1914-1918

Digitising pictures, letters, memories for the 100th anniversary



### Contact

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For more information  
[www.europeana1914-1918.eu](http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu)

Do you have memorabilia from WW1?  
Letters, photographs, diaries, sound recordings or films?  
Share them on the web!

[www.europeana1914-1918.eu](http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu)



In partnership with



## How you can get involved

Do you have a box hidden deep in the attic, or under the bed, that holds your great grandfather's war diary? Maybe a letter from the front line? A photo taken at the time? Or a recording? Is there a special story behind it?

### Then show us!

You can also take digital photos or scans of your letters, photos, diaries and memorabilia, or digitise your film and audio material.

## What you need

To digitise your WW1 family history, you will require:

- A digital camera with a resolution of 2 megapixels and/ or a scanner with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi
- A computer with an internet connection on which you can store the digital image before uploading it to the project website

## What to do next

Once you've digitised your keepsakes and securely stored them on your computer, you can go to [www.europeana1914-1918.eu](http://www.europeana1914-1918.eu). There you can register for free and contribute to the online archive. There's a form you need to use to describe your object in greater detail, then you upload your file as a jpg image, PDF or an audio-video file.

Once the information has been reviewed by the editorial team, it will be available to all users of the website. Personal email addresses will not be published.

We only collect the digital version of your memorabilia – not the object itself. You can only submit objects you have the rights to and agree that the digital version will be freely available on the internet for use by others.

## Roadshows

**Bring your WW1 artefacts along to one of our roadshows.**

Experts will be on hand to digitise your material and add your details to the online archive. Project staff will also be available to record your oral stories.

We look forward to seeing you at:

**The Museum of Lancashire**  
**Stanley Street, Preston**  
**Saturday, 10 March**  
**10am – 5.30pm**  
**Tel: 01772 534075**

Other UK roadshows will follow.

