

2022

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FOOTBALL ALLIANCE

CYPRUS



THE PEACE FIELD PROJECT

ICFA

www.childrensfootballalliance.com

PEACE FIELD PROJECT

Thursday 20th & Friday 21st October 2022



Introduction ⁽³⁾

Cultural Games ⁽⁴⁾

March of the Phoenix ⁽⁶⁾

Christmas Truces ⁽⁷⁾

Battle of Passchendaele / Tyne Cot ⁽⁸⁾

Last Post at The Menin Gate ⁽⁹⁾

Budget ⁽¹⁰⁾



Introduction

The Children's Football Alliance (CFA) is a registered charity representing a coalition of agencies and organisations that safeguard and advance the rights of children in football. As a humanistic voice and advocate for children, the CFA also acts as a focal point and network for those individuals and organisations seeking sustainable partnerships, information, education and/or training on child-centred approaches and children's rights in football. As the CFA's network continues to grow, the demand for the International Peace Field Project (peace education through football) is over-subscribed. Ultimately, The CFA's mission to protect childhood through play remains the core value of all our projects.

Background / Brief history

In 2012 The CFA worked closely with the Peace Village on developing the Peace Fields Project (PFP), a project promoting peace through twinning designated areas of play at primary schools, secondary schools, higher education, organisations and sports clubs, with Flanders Peace Field. During the development of the CFA's PFP the UN's GPGs were considered an ideal fit for both projects to work together and further raise the International Day of Peace education profile. Young people were introduced to the Christmas Truces, commemorating the First World War and celebrating peace. Through the Peace Field Project there are now over 50 peace pitches in 5 continents around the world. Each peace pitch bespoke to the respective communities' needs; each peace pitch developing peace makers for the future through play.

The CFA were motivated by The United Nations General Assembly's Resolution 55/282. 111th plenary meeting, 7th September 2001. Determined to address the overlooked pledge to the International Day of Peace by all member states, The NCFCA embarked on engaging young people to challenge the lack of conviction displayed by adults to implement this act of humanitarianism.

55/282. International Day of Peace.

- 1.the International Day of Peace shall be observed on 21st September each year, with this date to be brought to the attention of all people for the celebration and observance of peace*
- 2. Declares that the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day;*
- 3. Invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate, in an appropriate manner, the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the Global ceasefire.*

'It is time that young people took hold of 55/282 and showed older people how to implement peace'. Ernie Brennan, Founder of the Children's Football Alliance'.

It is without prejudice that the CFA work with all mixed ability mixed gender children.

CULTURAL GAMES in The FIRST WORLD WAR

FOOTBALL

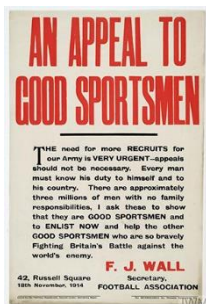


1. MANY MUNITIONS FACTORIES HAD THEIR OWN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL TEAMS

During the First World War, more than 900,000 women worked in munitions factories. Most factories employed a welfare officer to monitor the health, wellbeing and behaviour of their new female work force. Sport, especially football, was encouraged and many munitions factories developed their own ladies football teams.

2. FOOTBALL HELPED KEEP MEN FIT AND MORALE HIGH

Troops on the Western Front would spend considerable periods of time behind the lines. To keep men fit and active and to maintain morale, sport was encouraged and in many cases officially sanctioned.



3. FOOTBALL WAS USED AS A RECRUITING TOOL

Football was widely used as a tool for recruiting men for the forces. The text on this poster is a direct appeal from the Secretary of the Football Association for 'GOOD SPORTSMEN' to 'ENLIST NOW and help the other GOOD SPORTSMEN who are so bravely Fighting Britain's Battle against the world's enemy.'

4. PRISONERS OF WAR PLAYED FOOTBALL IN CAMPS

Only nine-a-side matches could be played in the camp due to lack of space. Many of the footballs were sent to POWs via Holland.

5. FOOTBALL GAMES WERE USED FOR PROPAGANDA

The British-made a toy football game in the First World War. Like many propagandist games of this period it poked fun at the Kaiser. The aim of the game is to get the ball bearing 'footballs' from kick off, through the maze of trenches and into the Kaiser's mouth.



6. FOOTBALL WAS PLAYED IN ALL THEATRES OF THE WAR

Christmas Day 1915. Sports such as football were seen as a good way for officers to develop leadership skills and to forge links with their men.

7. 'NEW' SPORTS WERE PLAYED AT BRITISH FOOTBALL GROUNDS

The arrival in Britain of American and Dominion troops brought new sports such as Baseball and Australian Rules Football to the British public.

8. TROOPS ON BOTH SIDES PLAYED FOOTBALL DURING THE 1914 CHRISTMAS TRUCE

Many contemporary letters and diaries describing the truce mention opposing troops kicking around a football.



9. SERVICE PERSONNEL PLAYED FOOTBALL TO PREVENT BOREDOM

Most service personnel had to endure long periods of boredom when they were not in action. Keen to prevent bored seamen becoming restless and unruly, Admiral Jellicoe encouraged the development of sports facilities at Scapa Flow naval base in the Orkney Islands. A football pitch was constructed, although there were complaints that the ground was too boggy.

boggy.

RUGBY



1. [Thirty-one Scottish international rugby players died in World War One, more than from any other country.](#)

The rugby stars, along with their counterparts in football and cricket, were celebrities to the other soldiers. When war broke out many of these educated rugby players found themselves in the officer ranks, which was not a safe place to be.

2. [Rugby International players that died in the First World War](#)

Scotland – 31. England – 28. France – 21. Wales – 14. Ireland – 12. New Zealand – 12. Australia – 9. South Africa – 5. British Isles – 2. United States of America – 1

3. [Scotland: Dr David Bedell-Sivright.](#)

Enjoyed the reputation of being the roughest, toughest forward of his day and the arch exponent of the skill of dribbling. Played for Scotland 22 times during 1900 to 1908. Led the 1904 Lions, worked in Australia for a year as a stock rearer before returning to Edinburgh to complete his medical studies. Contracted Septicemia and Like Swannell, died at Gallipoli, he was buried at sea.



4. [In 1919, in the aftermath of WWI.](#)

A group of international rugby teams gathered in Britain for the King's Cup, a tournament unprecedented in its time but little remembered today. Pictured: Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association: 1/2-014210-G Alexander Turnbull Library | King George V presents the King's Cup to New Zealand on April 19, 1919, at Twickenham

5. [Rugby was considered a more intelligent game than football](#)

There were more rules in Rugby than in football which marginalised the working classes in terms of participation and educating the masses.

CRICKET

1. [Cricket in World War I](#)

Was severely curtailed in all nations where first-class cricket was then played except India.

2. [At least 210 first-class cricketers are known to have joined the armed forces, of whom 34 were killed.](#)

The obituary sections of Wisden between 1915 and 1919 contained the names of hundreds of players and officials of all standards who died in the service of their country.

3. [Anzac soldiers played improvised games cricket under shellfire on Shell Green in Gallipoli in 1915.](#)

The Australians played a game in view of the Turks to give the impression of normality and confidence while the entire force was being secretly evacuated from the beach area.

4. [Cricket was played overseas, often in fund raising matches.](#)

A game involving an English XII against an Indian team held at the [Bombay Gymkhana](#) in December 1915 for war relief was watched by 40,000 people.

5. [British and Empire soldiers were instructed to throw bombs using a technique to that of bowling a cricket ball.](#)

Training classes were given on how to best do this. A cartoon satirising this was published by Geoffrey Stobie in 1918.

MARCH OF THE PHOENIX

An interactive walk on remembrance.

Over a century after the Great War ended, we look back and reflect on the meaning and relevance of remembrance. Who, how and why do we remember? Just as the early pilgrims, today's visitors to the battlefields of Flanders bring their own customs and rituals to commemorate their loved ones.

We visit some recently added headstones at a local military cemetery and contemplate a traditional Maori ceremony at the New Zealand Memorial Park. The March of the Phoenix is the unique introduction to your new environment. All participants will discover the diversity of war represented in the memorials. All Global Peace Games nationalities are mixed as are the victims of the Great War.

Participants are asked to be mindful of the environment and respectful of one another, throughout the Global Peace Games. The March of the Phoenix will place you in a historical walk that will help you contextualise your emotions and thoughts on why you are at the Global Peace Games.

The off the beaten track trail will bring us to the beautiful Island of Ireland Peace Park with its magnificent round tower.

MESEN RIDGE

Turbulent history of Messines during the war. Messines Ridge British Cemetery. Located on a ridge, it's one of the many British cemeteries that dot the landscape. The Memorial Obelisk has the names of 840 New Zealand soldiers inscribed on it. Fallen heroes who lost their lives at Messines and have an unknown grave. The cemetery itself contains 986 Commonwealth soldiers and the graves of 954 unknown soldiers. But at the same time it is a special viewpoint of the battlefield of Messines.

NEW ZEALAND MEMORIAL

The next walk leads to the New Zealand Battlefield Memorial Park. The obelisk, planned in a memorial park, was built on a German position. By the way, you will still find the remains of two partially buried bunkers. But also look around you, the view here is impressive.

IRISH PEACE PARK

Another special place to visit on your day in Mesen is the [Irish Peace Park](#). A high, round tower commemorates the Irish soldiers who died during the First World War. At the same time, it's a symbol of reconciliation between all residents of the Irish island.

During the Battle of Messines, the Catholic and Protestant Irish divisions (the 16th and 36th Ulster) fought side by side to capture the hill on which Messines was built.

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

The fathead of Mesen can be seen from afar. It's the nickname for St. Nicholas' Church, on account of its domed tower. The church dates 1057 met local needs with the construction of a Benedictine abbey. It gave Mesen the necessary prosperity. The secrets of St Nicholas Church in WW1 are truly eye opening.

CHRISTMAS TRUCES

The Christmas Truce(s) of December 1914

Introduction

In the first Christmas of the First World War (1914-1918), soldiers fighting in the trenches around Ypres, Belgium, held a truce. They set aside their weapons and met in 'No Man's Land'. The Christmas Truce, as this has come to be known, was unplanned and unexpected. It happened many times and in many places. German, French, British, Belgian and Indian soldiers met each other, exchanging gifts, signing songs, and even played football. It was an example of 'fraternisation' – when enemies met, shared comforts and even became friends – which naturally met with disapproval from military commanders.

Football was a very popular sport in Britain and Germany in the years before 1914. In January 1900 representatives from 86 football clubs founded the German Football Association (*Deutscher Fußball-Bund* - DFB), and the German national football team had represented Germany in international football competitions from 1908. In England there were Division 1 and Division 2 Championships and an FA Challenge Cup competition. The FA was in charge of football in England then, as it is now. While Britain and its allies were at war in 1914, football was still played at home.

Fighting

In the days before Christmas 1914 there was fierce fighting. British people at home were also suffering casualties, particularly in the coastal towns of Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepool which were heavily shelled by German battle cruisers. On the Western Front December saw a number of offensives which resulted in many deaths. One of these attacks took place at Ploegsteert Wood on the afternoon of 18th December 1914, and many British soldiers were killed by artillery fire and many dead and wounded were caught on barbed wire in No Man's Land. When the attacks had finished a British officer observed that German soldiers climbed out of their trenches, unarmed, with their hands in the air. They began to collect the wounded and the dead, and encouraged the British to do the same.

Lieutenant Sir Edward Hulse, 2/Scots Guards (quoted in Malcolm Brown & Shirley Seaton, *Christmas Truce*, (London: Pan, 2001), p.45

The morning after the attack, there was an almost tacit understand as to no firing, and about 6.15am I saw eight or nine German shoulders and heads appear, and then three crawled out a few feet in front of their parapet and began dragging in some of our fellows who were either dead or unconscious [...] I passed down the order that none of my men were to fire and this seems to have been done all down the line. I helped one of the men in myself, and was not fired on, at all.

Tacit – *unspoken*

Parapet - *An earthen or stone embankment protecting soldiers from enemy fire*

Not everyone in the trenches wanted to take part in the truce. Shortly before Christmas 1914, front line Belgian troops stopped the advancement of the German invasion of their country and held on to a small part of their land. This victory was a huge source of national pride as Germany had invaded Belgium and any victory against the occupying force was to be celebrated. Michel Toudy was a Belgian soldier who fought on the Western Front from 1914 until he was killed by a grenade in July 1917.

The Diary of Michel Toudy (In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres, Belgium)

Evening in the trenches at Dixmude... During the night of 24 – 25. Unusually not a single rifle shot is heard. What's going on? Could it be the end of the war?! Around 23.00 we hear the Germans who are singing amid the ruins of Dixmude and in the trenches. They are celebrating Christmas in our ruins. Around midnight, to show them that we are not discouraged, some grenadiers sing patriotic songs and Christmas carols. This lasts the whole night. It should be said that there are those who find this disturbing. From the first hours one asks what's happening, gentlemen the Germans are taking the liberty of walking about in front of us out of their trenches. If I had my way they wouldn't be strolling about for long, I would give them a taste of the delights of some machine gun bullets.

Battle of Passchendaele

Where exactly and when was it? How many casualties were there? Why is it so important?

When was the Battle of Passchendaele?

The offensive began on July 31, 1917 and ended more than three months later, on November 6.

Why was Passchendaele launched?

The British army's commander in chief in France, General Sir Douglas Haig, believed Germany's army was close to collapse and needed "just one more push" for defeat.

A French assault, called the Nivelle Offensive, had ended in disastrous failure in May 1917, spurring General Haig on to push for a major British offensive.

Shortly before Passchendaele, in June, the Allied army captured nearby Messines Ridge, which also boosted the belief that German troops' morale was low.

What happened?

The Passchendaele offensive began on July 18 with a bombardment attack on German lines with thousands of guns and millions of shells.

Then, in the early hours of the morning on July 31, the infantry assault began. But to the army's surprise, the German army fought well and Allied gains were not as large as expected.

At the same time, the area saw the heaviest rainfall in more than 30 years leaving soldiers drenched in mud. Many men and war horses drowned in the liquid mud, and even tanks became stuck.

The assault was temporarily stopped before starting up again on September 20 with further attacks in early October.

The German army also unleashed mustard gas, leaving many soldiers with chemical burns.

Despite massive Allied losses and small gains, General Haig refused to accept defeat and ordered more assaults.

Troops finally captured the village on November 6 and the offensive was called off with General Haig claiming success.

How many people died?

Although it is difficult to calculate exact numbers, around 325,000 Allied and 260,000 German soldiers died in the Battle of Passchendaele.

Among the Allied deaths were 36,000 Australians, 2,500 New Zealanders, 16,000 Canadians. Some 42,000 bodies have never been recovered.

Why was it important?

Allied forces advanced just five miles during the entire campaign

The operation led to criticism of General Haig for continuing the campaign even after it became apparent a breakthrough might be unlikely.

Although both sides suffered badly, one common view is that German forces could afford the loss of troops even less.

How is it being remembered?

The towering Menin Gate in the Belgian town is covered with the names of 54,391 British dead who have no known grave, according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Menin Gate - Last Post

Silent crowds wait for the stroke of eight o'clock underneath the Menin Gate. Then the volunteer buglers from the Last Post Association raise their instruments to play the Last Post. Nothing quite prepares you for the powerful emotion of experiencing this moving ceremony at first hand. Traditionally, the Last Post ceremony consists of a parade, with traffic halted, a call to attention, the Last Post, the Exhortation, one minute's silence, the Lament, the laying of a wreath, flags, banners, standards and reveille. Whether all of these elements are present on a particular evening depends on the occasion and on the participation of groups and individuals. For many years, the Last Post ceremony lasted barely two minutes. Until the 1980s, those watching could often be counted on the fingers of one hand. On special commemorative occasions or when eminent visitors were present, a more extensive ceremony was organised. After 1990, however, the extended version became the norm. As the event became better known, more and more associations and schools asked to be allowed to take part in the Last Post ceremony. These days, it is watched by at least 100 people every day. In the summer, the number of those present can even reach 1,000. Practical information The Last Post ceremony takes place at 8 pm every day of the year. There is no entrance fee and no need for prior reservation. On busy days, crowds begin to assemble at the Menin Gate at least 30 minutes before the event begins. It is possible to request a special extended version of the ceremony. Individuals or groups may, for example, wish to lay a wreath or bring musicians or a choir. The Last Post Association is happy to consider such requests, but applications should be made well in advance. These extended ceremonies are also public and also begin 8pm

