

# DELIVERABLE

**Project Acronym:** Europeana Collections 1914-1918

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**Project Title:** Europeana Collections 1914-1918: Remembering the First World War – a digital collection of outstanding sources from European national libraries

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## D4.10 Launch / Exhibition report London

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**Authors:** Foteini Aravani, BL

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Dissemination Level		
P	Public	x
C	Confidential, only for members of the consortium and the Commission Services	

## Revision History

Revision	Date	Author	Organisation	Description

**Statement of originality:**

This deliverable contains original unpublished work except where clearly indicated otherwise. Acknowledgement of previously published material and of the work of others has been made through appropriate citation, quotation or both.

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## 1. Executive Summary

At the end of Europeana Collections 1914-1918, four of the contributing libraries mounted exhibitions/launch events in their institutions.

The following chapters detail the activities in London.

Due to the programming cycles of some of the Libraries, it was not possible to hold all of the exhibitions during the period of the funded project; however, where the exhibition has not opened yet in order to coincide better with European commemorations of the War in August and November 2014, contributors have included details of the scope of the exhibitions, and plans/designs.

## 2. Launch Event

### 2.1 Aims for the Launch Event / Exhibition

Enduring War: Grit, Grief and Humour forms a major part of the Library's contribution to the international centennial commemoration of the First World War. Bringing together a wide range of primary materials, Enduring War examines the question of how people coped with life during the Great War: from moments of patriotic fervour to periods of anxious inactivity, shock or despair.

The experience of war generated a rich seam of black humour, forced art to confront the horror of the battlefield, and challenged (if not overthrew) the status quo of the Edwardian era. The exhibition will look at the attempts to boost morale at home and in the field, as well as more individual responses to the conflict, such as schoolchildren's accounts of Zeppelin Raids in Holborn; those separated from family attempting to find solace; and the thoughts of home and national pride that helped Indian soldiers cope with life on the Fronts. Drawing on recent research, Enduring War will be a thoughtful witness to the many voices of the war.

The exhibition also highlights the Library's work for Europeana Collections 1914-1918, a major pan-European project to digitise more than 400,000 items from the First World War.

### 2.2 Target Groups

The digital learning resource produced for the Europeana Collections 1914-1918 project will be showcased in the exhibition. The entrance to the space includes a specially-commissioned audiovisual installation (three screens with sound points) exploring letter home from all nations from the Europeana1914-1918.eu website (artist: Rocket Hub Productions).

Introductory Panel:

In the hundred years since the First World War began, as the war passes from shared memory into history, our understanding of that conflict has continued to shift. While the causes of the war, the abilities of the generals and the motives of the nations involved are still actively debated, historical attention has widened its focus beyond the trenches of the front lines and the cabinets and chancelleries of Europe to the home front and the broader worldwide context.

Intimate in scale and scope, this exhibition asks how individuals tried to cope with the war, exploring feelings that were universal, predominately from a British perspective. For some, no coping strategy proved adequate, and their minds bent under the strain. For others, support from family, friends and comrades or sustenance from belief, humour or a sense of conviction went some way to alleviate the pressure. Some of these lives, these emotions, now endure in the items on display here, no longer ephemeral, but preserved for future generations, both in the Library and on the website Europeana1914-1918.

Key exhibition objectives

The exhibition will:

- commemorate the First World War as part of the First World War Centenary and showcase Europeana Collections 1914-1918
- examine the difference between how we see the war today and how contemporaries lived through the experience;
- raise awareness of the BL's important collection of material relating to the First World War;

- complement the Library's wider programme of commemoration, which includes a range of events and the Europeana Collections 1914-1918 project.

## **2.3 Venue & Date**

The Folio Gallery

The British Library

96 Euston Road

London NW1 7BF

19 June-12 October 2014

Admission Free

## **2.4 Programme**

Languages and the First World War

When: Fri 20 Jun 2014, 09.00-17.30

Where: Conference Centre, British Library

Price: £40, (£32 Over 60s) and £28

<http://www.bl.uk/whatson/events/event160561.html>

The Forgotten Soldiers

When: Wed 16 Jul 2014, 18.30-20.00

Where: Terrace Restaurant

Price: £8, (£6 Over 60s) and £5

<http://www.bl.uk/whatson/events/event160740.html>

## **2.5 Report on the actual event & evaluation**

Exhibition promotion to take place in May/June, but was showcased in the Library's cultural preview film which was posted on YouTube and the Library's press pages:

<http://pressandpolicy.bl.uk/Press-Releases/2014-at-the-British-Library-the-UK-s-biggest-show-of-British-comics-a-trip-into-Gothic-terror-and-672.aspx>

Publicity on British Library website: <http://www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/enduring-war/index.html>

The exhibition is listed on 1914.org

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- Beautiful Science
- Comics Unmasked
- **Enduring War: Grief, Grit and Humour**
- Events
- Previous exhibitions

### Enduring War: Grief, Grit and Humour

19 June - 12 October 2014  
 Folio Society Gallery - admission free



'Fall In' Poster issued by the Central London Recruiting Depot, 1914 (British Library. Tab.11748.a.(90))

 [Enlarge](#)

A major part of the Library's contribution to the World War One Centenary, *Enduring War* examines how people coped with life during the war: from moments of patriotic fervour to periods of anxious inactivity, shock and despair.

Through posters, poetry, art, books and pamphlets from the period, the exhibition considers attempts to boost morale at home and in the field, as well as presenting individual responses to the conflict, such as letters from Indian soldiers on the Western Front, schoolboys' descriptions of Zeppelin raids over London and examples of the black humour expressed in trench journals.



'Before and After' in *The Golden Horseshoe* (1919) [shellmark P.P.4039.wek(1)]

 [Enlarge](#)

The exhibition will also highlight the Library's work for Europeana Collections 1914-1918, a major pan-European project to digitise more than 400,000 items from World War One.

Accompanying the exhibition will be an extensive series of public events and discussions, as well as [programmes for schools and teachers](#).

## 2.6 Pictures, photographs

### Exhibition design



Extracts from the soundscape located within the exhibition landscape

Introduction wall

Sound post with section title stencilled on to outside







