

Remembering the Silence: The Armistice of 1918

Relevant to

Modules on the First World War, twentieth-century Britain, modern war

Background

The First World War ended on 11 November 1918, the day we still mark as Remembrance Day. In this radio programme, Professor Heather Jones travels to the French forest of Compiègne where the armistice was signed, and discusses the terms of Germany's surrender, how citizens around Europe reacted, and the long-term consequences of the end of the war.

Listen to the programme here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m00013mz>.

Questions

- Why did Germany need to end the war so badly in November 1918?
- How might British soldiers have felt about the armistice on 11 November and in the weeks and months afterwards?
- How did the general public react in Britain on the day of the armistice? How did people react in Germany?
- Was Ferdinand Foch, the Supreme Allied Commander in the First World War, right to comment in 1919 that 'this is not peace; it is an armistice for twenty years'?

Further resources

Listen to more episodes of the series here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00013n0/episodes/player>.

The Imperial War Museums have a huge range of collections relating to the First World War; [search for items from the WWI collection here](#) (try searching for 'armistice').

The Unknown Warriors podcast looks at the First World War in more detail, including an episode by Professor Jones talking about the way the historiography of the Great War has changed. Listen here: <https://www.unknownwarriorspod.co.uk/podcast>. And there's also an introductory document on our website for this.