



SPARKPOINT

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WARS AND
RUMOURS
OF WARS

Inside:

Explore the historical and cultural impact of War as an idea and reality.

Welcome

It's sometimes easy to forget, as we sit within the idyllic confines of Shrewsbury, that the world outside can be a very dark and unforgiving place. Hiding from it is not the answer and, in order to be best placed, then the opportunity arises, to make a difference to conflict, it's important that you understand something of it's history and cultural importance...

THE NEXT WAR

War's a joke for me and you,
While we know such dreams are true.
SIEGFRIED SASSOON

Out there, we walked, quite friendly up to Death,
Sat down and ate beside him, cool and bland, --
Pardoned his spilling mess-tins in our hand.
We've sniffed the green thick odour of his breath, --
Our eyes wept, but our courage didn't writhe.
He's spat at us with bullets, and he's coughed
Shrapnel. We chorused if he sang aloft,
We whistled while he shaved us with his scythe.

Oh, Death was never enemy of ours!
We laughed at him, we leagued with him, old chum.
No soldier's paid to kick against His powers.
We laughed,-- knowing that better men would come,
And greater wars: when every fighter brags
He fights on Death, for lives; not men, for flags.

Wilfred Owen

POEM OF THE WEEK

gallimaufry

noun

A jumble, a hodge-podge, a ridiculous medley.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Attempting to combine the scale, valour and horror of war with a sense of time running short, Hans Zimmer's score for Christopher Nolan's Dunkirk is a fascinating exploration of the themes of warfare in music.



MUSIC OF THE WEEK



15 MINUTE CHALLENGE

THE WAR OF THE BUCKET

We all know that wars can be started over very small or very stupid things, but this war really does take it to an extreme. Click the icon below to find out, in a light-hearted manner, about the Italian war that really did take place over a wooden bucket.



THE CHINESE FISHERMAN

While warfare is often responsible for bringing out the worst in humanity, we should also remember that it often brings out the very best in terms of courage, bravery and resilience. The story of Shen A'gui is just one of millions of examples. Click on the icon below to read about his selfless act.



THE CULTURE

The Science Fiction Genre is often derided or looked down upon, but this sort of literature can often be a mechanism for exploring ideas and constructions – particularly in the future. Ian M Banks writes a series of books which have a particular take on warfare. Click the icon to find out more.



Depicting Venus attempting to hold Mars back as he marches out from the temple of Janus, Rubens' masterpiece is one of the earliest activist paintings. Referencing the conflict through which Europe struggled between 1618 and 1648, the picture is entitled 'Consequences of War'.

IMAGE OF THE WEEK