

de Stolfe Journal ★★★ Broadsheets

Veteran's Day 100 Years

***On exhibit November 2018
at the Scurry County Museum
in Snyder, Texas***

All photos are by RG de Stolfe, except where noted.



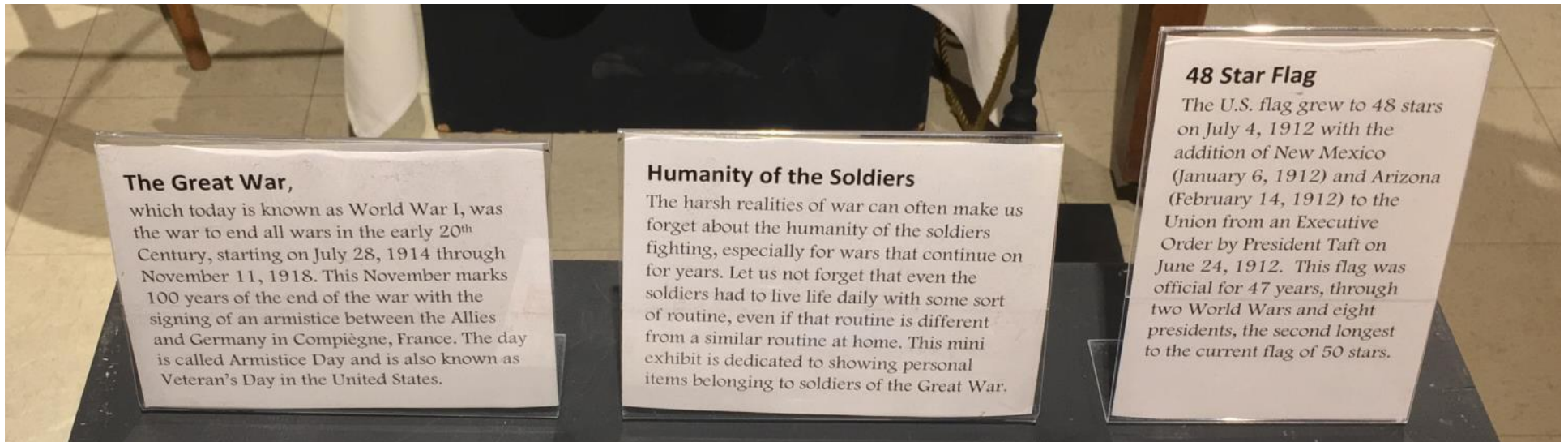
November 11 every year is Veteran's Day in the United States. For other countries, it is known as Armistice Day. The date represents the end of the Great War, which later became known as World War I, on November 11, 1918. When I was hired as the curator of the Scurry County Museum in the fall of 2018, my very first exhibition was to create something for Veteran's Day, an exhibition the museum did every year. Since 2018 was the 100 year anniversary of the end of the Great War, it was obvious that I needed to focus the exhibition about



the end of the Great War. I only had a short time to put it together and with that not being familiar yet with the museum's collection. Fortunately, the collection was well documented enough for me to find items to put together and get things labeled. There were basically three parts to the exhibition, items relating to the WWI, the remembrance of WWI, and a tribute to those missing in combat for any wars. The following pages show the photos of that relatively small, but impactful exhibition and barely in time for Veteran's Day that year.



The first thing people see after they walk into the gallery are these short texts talking about the exhibition.



The Great War,

which today is known as World War I, was the war to end all wars in the early 20th Century, starting on July 28, 1914 through November 11, 1918. This November marks 100 years of the end of the war with the signing of an armistice between the Allies and Germany in Compiègne, France. The day is called Armistice Day and is also known as Veteran's Day in the United States.

Humanity of the Soldiers

The harsh realities of war can often make us forget about the humanity of the soldiers fighting, especially for wars that continue on for years. Let us not forget that even the soldiers had to live life daily with some sort of routine, even if that routine is different from a similar routine at home. This mini exhibit is dedicated to showing personal items belonging to soldiers of the Great War.

48 Star Flag

The U.S. flag grew to 48 stars on July 4, 1912 with the addition of New Mexico (January 6, 1912) and Arizona (February 14, 1912) to the Union from an Executive Order by President Taft on June 24, 1912. This flag was official for 47 years, through two World Wars and eight presidents, the second longest to the current flag of 50 stars.

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In the center of the exhibition, I placed a double sided covered case (that we called a coffin case!) where I placed Great War specific artifacts as shown on this page and the next page.

French greeting card

Soldier wallet



Soldier helmet

Military whistles with chains

Collapsible canvas bucket

Helmet locket pins

Red Cross buttons



Soldier kit

Sailor cap

Bible

Trench art

First aid kit

Mirror with case

Various pins and buttons

WWI "dog tags"



The Great War (later referred to World War I after World War II) officially lasted from July 28, 1914 to November 11, 1918. While the conflict was long before 1914 and still remained until after the second war, they are still the two biggest worldwide events over the last century.

48 stars on the flag.

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The official remembrance for the Great War is a red poppy, also called a Remembrance Poppy. The usual Remembrance Poppy is a single petaled common poppy that is most commonly seen in Great Britain and former British colonies.

This is a very simplified explanation. For more information, google “Remembrance Poppy”, “Great War”, “World War I”, and “Madame Guérin” on Google “Lest we forget”!



This is a red oriental poppy. I took this photo in Leadville, Colorado. They grow there every year and bloom once in the early summer, for a few weeks in June and July. They can get quite large, about 5” in diameter.

Remembrance Poppy

The remembrance poppy started in 1921 to remember military personnel who died in
The Great War
28 July 1914 — 11 November 1918

The symbolism of the poppy is based on a poem written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae in 1915. Moina Belle Michaels, of Monroe, Georgia, wrote her own poem in 1918 inspired by and in tribute to McCrae’s 1915 poem. Realizing the needs of disabled servicemen after the war, she pursued the idea of selling silk poppies as a means of raising funds to assist the disabled veterans. By 1921, her poppy idea became a symbol with the American Legion Auxiliary for remembering veterans from the Great War. Today, the poppy symbol has come to represent the remembrance of veterans from all wars, particularly in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

In Flanders Fields

*By Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae
(Canadian 1872-1918)
Soldier, physician, poet
Written on May 3, 1915*

In Flanders Fields, the poppies grow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.





In this part of the exhibition, I made a dedication to the Prisoners of War and Missing In Action (POW-MIA) soldiers of any war. The black flag represents the organization dedicated to that cause. Below the flag is a table setup called a Missing Man table. On Veteran's Day, many restaurants will set up a lone table like this (although often much more basic) to remember those who cannot be home.



The museum had a setup for the Missing Man table before I started there, but I wanted to upgrade the quality of the arrangement. I bought all new china, silverware, glasses, etc and completely retooled the display to give more integrity to the purpose.



Missing Man Table

The Missing Man Table is a setting of honor for members of the armed forces who cannot be with us today – the missing, the imprisoned, the fallen. This tradition started from a growing awareness of the POW-MIA concern from the Vietnam War. While not governed by any entity, this place setting is common during Memorial Day and Veteran's Day and especially during Military dining functions. This setting is also called a Remembrance Table and a Fallen Comrade Table.

The arrangement of this table can vary, but the symbolism is the heart of the tradition. This table includes the following symbolism:

Small Table	Vulnerability of a lone prisoner against his captives.
Round Table	Everlasting concern by loved ones for the missing.
White Tablecloth	Purity of intention in responding to the call of duty.
Empty Chair	Reminder that they are not here.
Lit White Candle	The everlasting hope of a reunion.
Single Red Rose	Bloodshed; faith of loved ones awaiting a return.
Red Ribbon	Soldier's love of the country.
Inverted Glass	Inability to toast with us today.
Black Napkin	Sorrow of captivity.
Salt	Countless tears of the families while waiting.
Lemon	Bitter fate of the missing.
Bible	Spiritual strength and faith to sustain.

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I hope you enjoy these de Stolfe Journal Broadsheets!

I started these broadsheets as a means to reduce the number of pages for the regular journal issues. (And let's face it, you don't have time to read 50+ pages of the regular journal when not every topic in them might be of interest to you!) My broadsheets are single topics of special interest in a horizontal page format and restricted to ten pages or less (usually).



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de Stolfe Journal.....

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