



What was the long term legacy of the war?



Women's Suffrage.

The Representation of the People Act became law on 6th February 1918. It granted the vote to women over 30 who were householders or the wives of householders and women over 35 who were graduates. In the December election over 29,000 women voted.

It was a huge step forward for equality but very sad that the women who had contributed so much to the war effort as munitions and factory workers, women in uniform, nurses and volunteer workers were excluded from the right to vote.



Back to the old ways?

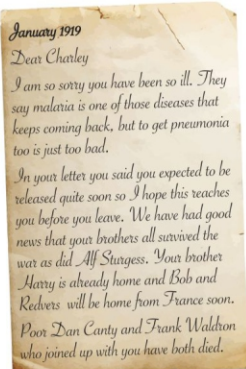
- Medical schools which had trained women as doctors during the war banned their entry.
- In many instances contracts of employment had been 'for the duration of the war' so working women lost their jobs.
- Employed Mothers saw the closure of day nurseries forcing them to give up their jobs.
- In some occupations single women insisted that married women be excluded.
- In 1921 female civil servants passed a resolution banning married women from their jobs. This stayed in force till 1946.
- The National Association of Schoolmasters campaigned against employing female teachers.
- In 1924 London County Council made its policy clear when it stated that the contracts of female teachers would end on marriage.



FASHION

Women had become used to more practical ways of dressing. In factories trousers or shorter skirts were standard. Corsets were not made as all metal was needed for the war effort.

Post-war many women adopted shorter hemlines and a more casual style. Hair fashions too changed becoming shorter. The end of the war saw little change in the way that working class women dressed.



I am so sorry you have been so ill. They say malaria is one of those diseases that keeps coming back, but to get pneumonia too is just too bad.

In your letter you said you expected to be released quite soon so I hope this reaches you before you leave. We have had good news that your brothers all survived the war as did Alf Stungess. Your brother Harry is already home and Bob and Redvers will be home from France soon. Poor Dan Canty and Frank Widdon who joined up with you have both died.

I am sure that life will never be the same for any of us after the war. Let's hope it will have been 'the war to end all wars' like they are saying in the papers.

I know that I am a different person now and I'm sure you are too. I don't know when my job will finish as I was employed 'for the duration of the war'. The big house has already asked father to try to encourage me to go back but I don't know if I can stand to work there again after all the freedom and good wages.

What will you do? I can't imagine you will want to come back to live in



FOOTBALL

The Football League suspended all of its matches at the end of the 1914-15 season. As the war progressed the informal kickabouts that had developed between women during factory breaks became

organised games. Games were organised to raise money for charity between factories or between factory women's teams and recovering injured soldiers. In 1917 the Munitionettes Cup was established attracting crowds of up to 53,000 for the final won by Blyth Spartans.



The effects of the war on the Country Estate.

Many of the aristocracy encouraged the men in their employment to fight for King and Country. Many suffered guilt at the men who died carrying out their wishes and, like the Earl of Harrington, took care of the tenants who had lost their wage earners to the war and paid for memorials in remembrance of the fallen.

Without workers country estates like Elvaston began to fall into disrepair. By 1915 over 100,000 agricultural labourers had signed up to fight. Many failed to return to domestic service after the war. Around 10% of the men had been killed, others had been disabled and were unable to work. Many had travelled and learned new skills and were no longer content with life as a domestic servant.

The situation was made worse by the Governments need to pay for the war. Income tax rises hit the gentry hard.

	1914	1918
Income tax	6%	8%
Super tax	30%	50%

Many Estates, like Elvaston, lost heirs. Viscount Talbot Fitzroy Eden Stanhope of the Second Rifle Brigade, was killed at Fromelles in May 1915. 25% of country estates changed hands between 1918 and 1921.



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