

The Captain Douglas Nicholls WW1 Story

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Douglas William Arthur Nicholls was born in Weston, Suffolk in 1895. Douglas father was a vicar.

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When Douglas was 11 years old, he started at the Ipswich school with his brothers. Children at that time would have learnt to write using chalk and a slate board, then move onto using a dip pen. and ink.

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In 1907 Reverend Francis Nicholls became the vicar of St Mary's on the Quay (Quay Place).

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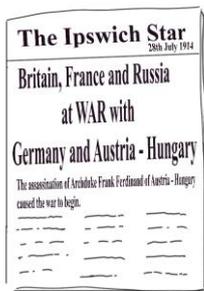
The Nicholls family moved to Ipswich.

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At the Ipswich school Douglas was a head prefect and editor for the school magazine. He enjoyed football and excelled in natural science. Douglas left school in 1914 and went to college in Oxford.

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World War One started on 28th July 1914.

Douglas left college to join the Army in December 1914.

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Lieutenant Douglas Nicholls joined the Suffolk Regiment. Soldiers built trenches to protect themselves from attacks from the German and Austrian - Hungarian army. The trenches were taller than the soldiers, they had a good defence and there were places to rest and shelter.



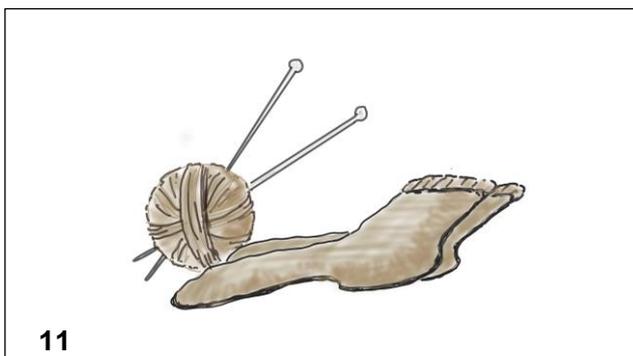
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Animals were used in the war. Horses, mules and camels helped with transportation. Dogs and pigeons carried messages. Canaries were used to detect poisonous gas. Cats and dogs caught the rats in the trenches.

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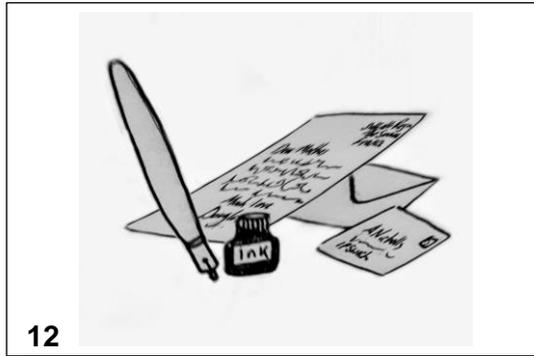


Most men became soldiers so women started doing all the jobs that they used to do. They worked on farms, in factories, in hospitals and many other places.



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It could be very wet in the trenches. The soldiers suffered from trench foot. The Red Cross asked people to knit socks and send them to the soldiers.



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The soldiers missed their family and friends. Douglas and his family kept in touch by writing letters.



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Lieutenant Douglas Nicholls fought in the battle of the Somme. He was very scared; however, he was very brave. He was injured and had to go to hospital where nurses helped him recover.



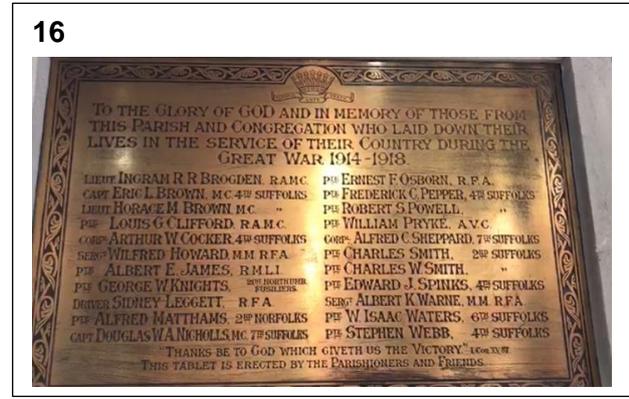
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Doctors learned that soldiers affected by the war felt better when they joined in with creative activities such as embroidery, woodwork or basket weaving. Being involved with outdoor activities such as gardening also helped.



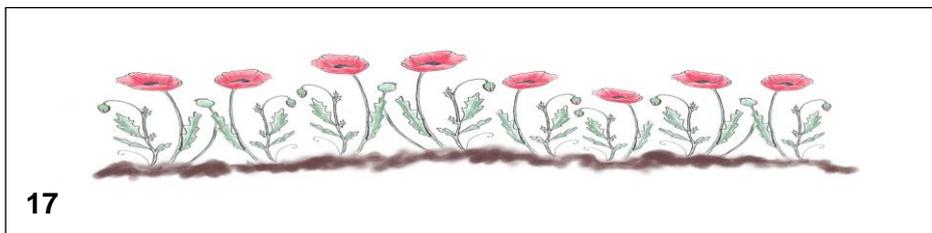
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After the battle of the Somme Douglas was promoted to Captain and was awarded the Military Cross medal. He returned to the war in 1917 and was involved in the battle of Arras.



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After the war many churches, towns and villages created memorials to the men who died in World War One. Captain Douglas Nicholls name is on the memorial at St Mary on the Quay (Quay Place).



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On the 11th November every year we celebrate Armistice Day and the end of the Great War. At 11 am we are silent and remember the people and animals that died. A famous poem called Flanders Field was written about the war. The poem talks about poppies growing on no man's land. Poppies were chosen as a symbol of remembrance because they grew on no man's land.

In 1921 paper poppies were made by wounded soldiers and sold to raise money to help the wounded soldiers and their families.