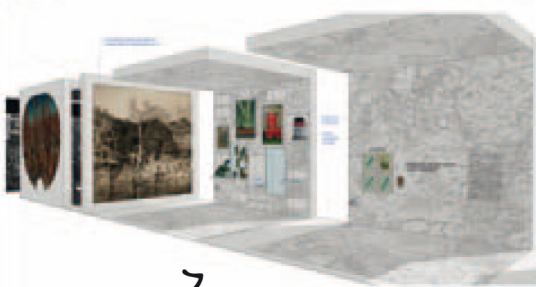




## Room 6

### Verdun

The Battle of Verdun was a sacrifice. It was also the symbol of war, trying at all cost to inject new movement into operations that are becoming increasingly bloody. The Battle of Verdun was the longest in the war but not the most costly in terms of lives lost. It lasted for 300 days and resulted in more than 300,000 deaths. Yet it was this battle that would remain in the nation's memory as the main symbol of the conflict, because of its length and the sacrifice of men from almost every region of France.



## Room 7

### From Peace to Another War

The treaties did not build lasting peace. Europe had lost its economic supremacy and its youth. With its new borders and new leaders, it was faced with economic crisis and the social tensions that accompany profound social change. The rise of nationalism and totalitarian regimes took Europe into another war.



An exhibition organised by Meuse County Council (Conseil général) jointly with the Verdun Memorial and hosted at the World Centre for Peace.

## Practical information

### CENTRE MONDIAL DE LA PAIX

Place Mgr Ginisty  
55100 VERDUN  
Tel (+33) (0) 329 865 500

### OPEN

Daily from 9am to 6pm continuously

### For groups

Book on [contact@cmpaix.eu](mailto:contact@cmpaix.eu)

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION?

There are three contacts for donations:

Conseil général de la Meuse ("county council") which will include them in the county's collection.

**Contact Véronique Harel**

Tel: (+33) (0) 329 837 768

The Verdun Memorial, set up by ex-servicemen.

Currently closed for work and extension.

Re-opening in November 2015.

**Contact Natacha Grosbois**

Tel: (+33) (0) 329 848 489

The Centre Mondial de la Paix (World Peace Centre),

which is preparing a new permanent exhibition on Franco-German relations.

**Contact Romain Castellano**

Tel: (+33) (0) 329 865 500



Technology,  
medicine, society...  
Everything that was changed  
by the First World War.

## WHAT'S LEFT OF THE GREAT WAR?

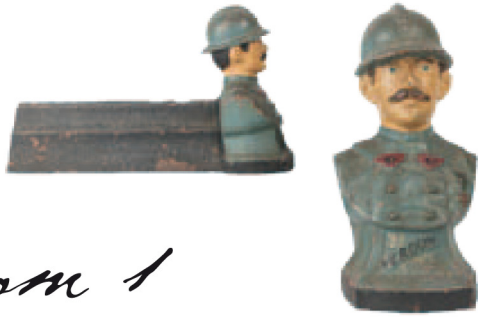
3)14 June 2014 > end of 2018

EXHIBITION // VERDUN

CENTRE MONDIAL DE LA PAIX

[www.grandeguerremeuse.org](http://www.grandeguerremeuse.org)





## Room 1

### The Destruction of a Generation

Men between the ages of 19 and 40 were the victims of this war. Families lost sons, husbands, brothers, fathers. Cemeteries are dotted along the Front Line that crosses our landscape, like a huge open wound. Ten million dead, of all nationalities – that was the dreadful final count. Soldiers feared dying without having a grave. And for families, not knowing where their dead relative was and knowing that his body had not been found, was an obstacle to the grieving process. It fed the senseless hope of a different outcome.

## Room 2

### The Everyday Life of Soldiers

Trench life was a different world. Death was constantly on the prowl, ready to strike at any time in the deafening explosion of a shell or in a gas attack. Boredom was also commonplace. Soldiers worked hard, repairing communications and digging shelters. But they also hung around waiting – for battle, for letters, for food. They made use of improvised weapons. There was little privacy in this world; promiscuity was the soldiers' daily lot. They carried their most precious items with them – letters, papers and photographs.

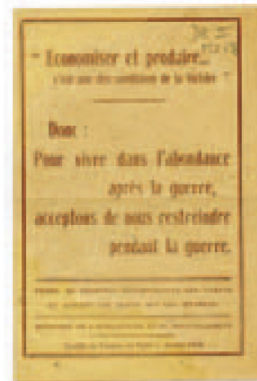


## Room 2 contd.

### Children at War

Children were not spared by the war. They were targeted in propaganda, notably through toys. At Christmas 1914, for example, the number of "fighting" toys increased, accounting for more than 50% of the new toys in department store catalogues.

Teaching also had a major role to play, with war taken as a central theme in every subject. Both boys and girls were involved in the efforts being demanded of the nation as a whole. Instilling a sense of guilt was the driving force behind this propaganda. By the end of 1916, however, schools ceased using war as the main topic in every subject.



## Room 3

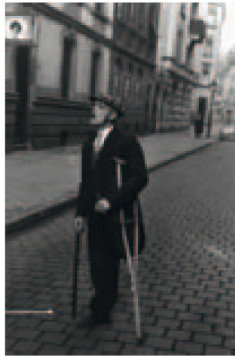
### Social Upheaval

The war totally changed habits and traditions. It created a different society in which people had to find a place for themselves. The soldiers, hardened and changed by the years of fighting, did not come through unscathed. Nor were the civilians spared. They had had to cope with death and absence. Women worked in factories and replaced men in jobs that had previously been unimaginable for them. Although the post-war period marked a step back in time, the status of women had changed irrevocably.

## Room 4

### Speeding up time

In this new society, the State played a foremost economic role by funding the conflict but it also managed social change. It organised entries to the workplace, supported families and managed shortages. Every facet of the economy was focussed on the war, bringing progress in its wake. Increasingly deadly weapons were designed but care for the wounded and sick improved and recovery was better. Communications became faster. People gave free rein to their imaginations resulting, for example, in the invention of camouflage



## Room 5

### Cultural Heritage

Soldiers found it difficult to describe the horrors they had seen yet the war produced an extremely large number of literary and artistic works from the earliest days of the conflict and has continued to do so to the present day.



Poet Guillaume Apollinaire, painter Fernand Léger, soldiers and artists, or the Gallé glassmaking family who lost a son to the war, all depicted their view of the situation. Conflict can also arouse reactions that introduce the absurd into Art and this is where the Dadaist movement found its inspiration. In the post-war period, it was the Surrealist and Expressionist movements that gave war a voice.