



# THE COLUMNS

HSD's newsletter: 90

by pupils; for pupils

Over the past month, I have enjoyed the privilege of writing and editing articles for this edition of the columns. It is important to remember and acknowledge the human cost of war: the devastating impact on civilians and children. While remembering past wars; we must not forget about current wars. All conflict has a detrimental affect, from the Trojan war to current disputes. It is easy to glorify events through the lens of movies and the passage of time but the result is a warped image of what war is. What war means. In this edition, we have therefore aimed to include as many real stories as we can. Indeed, two grandfathers named Ivan are featured. However, a twelve page school newspaper is no substitute for those around you who can also share their stories. I strongly encourage you to seek these stories out, it has taught me invaluable lessons.

Editor, Ruby McIntee

## Ivan; My Grandfather's Story

**Sophia Kapelyukh**

Siberia is one of the most hostile places in the world. Frozen, sparkling with sharp icicles it became home to many after they got deported from their homes during the Soviet Union, my granddad, Ivan, and his family were one of the many. It was there that my granddad got conscripted to the army to fight in World War Two. He was a reconnaissance soldier when he fought in Leningrad – a soldier who infiltrates behind enemy lines to obtain essential information.

During one operation, Ivan and his squad of scouts were tasked to go out behind German lines to obtain crucial military information. During their move, Ivan's squad was discovered by the Germans, who opened fire on them. Managing to reach no man's land, the squad had all fallen to the ground, acting as though dead to trick the Germans. They stayed motionless on the winter Russian snow all day till the sun set, only then could they make their way back to Soviet lines. That day, lying deadly still, battling with fear and death of hypothermia, Ivan had lost most of his toes to frost bite. But he still made it back to safety. My granddad was no longer eligible to fight because he had to get his toes removed. He was sent to be part of the self propelled artillery guns regiment. He became a technician lieutenant and he made sure guns were ready to fire during battles. His skills could not have been more valuable during the Bagration operation. In the summer of 1944, Ivan and his company had the mission to cross a river and take hold of a bridgehead. They managed it successfully but were soon attacked by Germans. Ivan and his company fought back with everything they had but the Germans fought with brutal force. The violence was incomprehensible - only a few soldiers were left on the bridgehead. The company had only one, badly damaged, self propelled gun left and the commander inside it was badly injured and the mechanic was killed.

Ivan had ran across to the gun under, 'A hurricane of bullets' - says the Russian Military of Defence Archives, dragged out his injured commander and carried him back to a safe point. Then, seizing all the courage in the world, he ran back to the gun, while still being fired at by the Germans. He managed to get inside, and because of his expertise, he repaired the gun and drove it into battle, taking out 3 German machine guns and securing the bridgehead.

Ivan got awarded the Order of Great Patriot War First Degree for his heroic deed.

# Interview; Doris McLaren

Interviewer; Ruby McIntee

As I sit, I survey my surroundings. I am in my neighbour's house, and in front of me is a little piece of paper with questions I want to ask her about the Second World War.

After the first question, I will crumple up the sheet and stuff it into my pocket. The ridged, disjointed questions I was going to ask lack depth. Interviews about important matters don't work like that, I find. You don't get information; you are told a story.

Doris McLaren's story (for all her protests) remains one of the most profound I have ever had the privilege of listening to.

This is just a snippet of her story.

I am Doris McLaren, and I'm 97, is that right? Yes. See, I was born on the 13th of May 1926 and as far I know, it was around about that date that there was a famous, or infamous, general strike. There was a general strike in Britain, and I think everybody stopped working. As far as I can remember, my mum used to speak about it. It was the students who kept things going and drove buses, ambulances, all sorts. So there was the general strike. That was 1926.

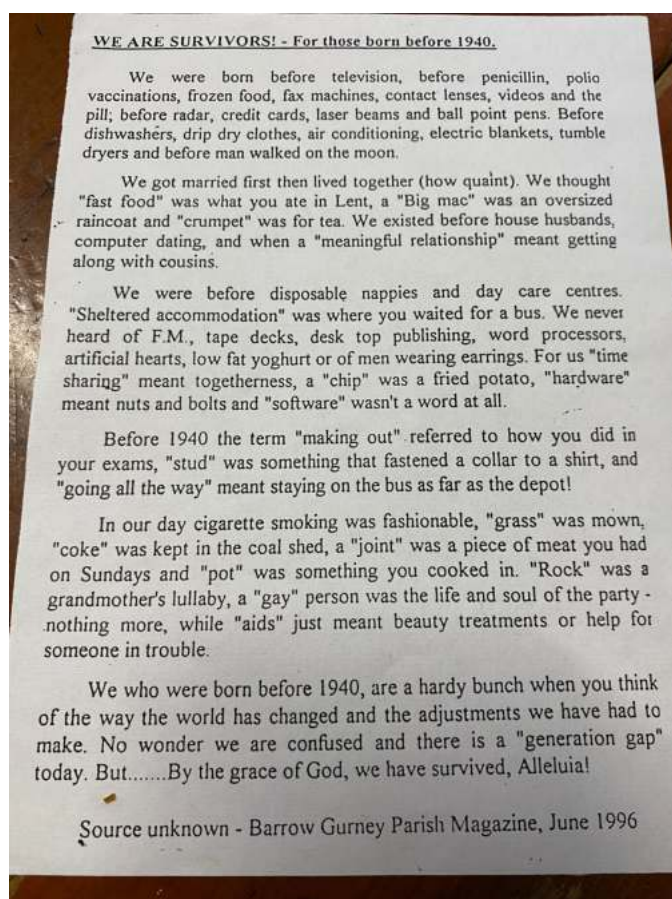
The war started in 1939 when I was 13. I lived in Invergowerie and everyone in Invergowrie of my generation worked, we all had jobs. We delivered paper and milk, we went to farm the tatties, and we all worked. I got to the Harris in 1938, when my brother was three years older and had just started his apprenticeship as a metalworker. I used to deliver beef around the village before I went to school. But that had to stop when I had to cycle into the Harris, so we ended up, the pair of us, doing a Sunday newspaper delivery all over the county. My brother had a motorbike, as he was 16 and passed his test, so he did the outlying neighbourhoods like Benvie. I did the inner ones on my bike, and we would meet back at the shop and do the village paper run. We walked the village. That was our contribution to our pocket money, and we were in that shop the morning war was declared. That was the Sunday morning- about 11 o'clock.

And the rammie in the village was tremendous, you know I think, could you go into the cupboard across the door? I raked that piece of writing out last night. Now there is interesting reading about what happened, and the way we communicated in those days. It was only the radio and going to the pictures; you got the newsreel in the pictures and the two radio programmes. That's all there was for us to get information. But still, people had been expecting it, there were all sorts of rumours flying about the possibility- the year before there was the great appeasement when the previous prime minister had gone to Germany and tried to get Hitler to communicate with him. So that's on my memory, I got to Harris for a year, a happy year, and then the war broke out. And I was evacuated back to Invergowrie school.

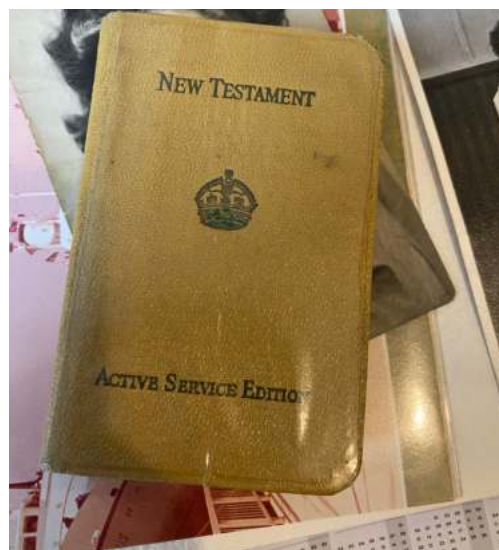
They evacuated us and sent us back to Invergowrie school. And they evacuated a school, a whole academy from Glasgow, from Clydeside. So Invergowrie was absolutely full of youngsters, all the Kirk halls were used, and every place was used to house people. And I had a ball that year. They were a tremendous group. I played the piano, and I also played the xylophone, and we put on concerts. It was a wonderful year for us- but murder for the rest of the country. The kids were safe; we were safe.

I went back to the Harris again for my third year of school. By this time, lots of things had happened in Dundee. My dad was a foreman and a sheet metal workplace along Dock Street. And my brother was an apprentice sheet metal worker, he was co-opted to work at the shipyard. So my brother had to do a lot of work there. I think it was hard on my mum: there were ration books- even clothing rations. There were no washing machines and I think my mum was exhausted because with my brother and my dad having to wear Dungeness, there was a tremendous amount of washing. So the boiler was put on, and the tub was filled and Mum scrubbed and scrubbed. It was hard work. So I think she had it very difficult. Women had it tough in those days.

I eventually left school, but only after 5th year at which point most of my friends had packed it in. I wanted to do higher education, and I wanted to do languages. By that time the war was beginning to near the end, and people needed interpreters. And that's what I wanted to do because I was good at languages. By 1943, I just started work and was on the cusp of being 17, and I loved it. The war took another couple of years to finish- but by 1945 it was done. Great were the celebrations in Invergowrie at the end of it.



Pictured to the left, a copy of the writing Doris gave me. It is a wonderful piece of writing, which shines a light on how time has changed communication. Pictured below, is an Old Testament from the war years.



# Remembering the Falklands

Charlie Grewar

The Falklands conflict is one of the most notable post-WW2 conflicts involving Britain. However it has been largely overshadowed on Remembrance Day in the past.

On the second of April 1982, Argentinian forces invaded the Falkland Islands, and, despite bitter resistance from local volunteers, the British authorities on the islands were forced to surrender. Britain's response was to deploy the Royal Navy to engage the Argentinian Navy and Air force, before mounting a ground assault to retake the islands. The war ended on the 14th of June with Argentina surrendering control of the Falklands. The war resulted in the deaths of 255 British soldiers, 649 Argentinian soldiers and 3 locals killed by shellfire. The average age of British soldiers was 23. The youngest soldier to die, private Ian Scrivens, was just 18 years old.

On Remembrance Day we tend to remember the World Wars, Britain's victory over the Nazis, and its losses on the Somme. However, it tends to be the case that smaller conflicts such as the fighting in the Falklands are overlooked. Yes, its battles may not have been as terrible as the likes of Ypres or Normandy, but the sinking of the Belgrano remains one of the most infamous moments of Margaret Thatcher's term. And the young age of many of the soldiers is easily comparable to enlisters' casual attitudes towards age during the Great War. The war showed that there was still patriotism to be found within the British Isles. It represents our nation's stubborn tenacity to cling to the remnants of its once massive empire. Its cause may not have been as globally significant as the World Wars, but on the 11th, spare a thought for the many young British and Argentinian soldiers who perished on the Falkland Islands. In every war. Lest we forget.

# My Grandfather's Story; Kazimir

Sophia Kapleyukh

My other great granddad, Kazimir, fought in the Second World War with his two brothers. His rank was Private of the Red Army – the lowest rank in the army, but even the lowest ranks can do the greatest things. An operation to break through German defence lines in Slovakia had begun and Kazimir's company was a part of it.

On the day of the operation, the company were moving swiftly towards the German trenches when they were spotted. Hellfire would be an understatement to what the Germans had released on them. The company were forced down to cover position - lying on your stomachs with your head down. They were hopelessly pinned down by machine guns and raging gun fire.

But Kazimir and his two brothers were ready to give it their all. A loud shout of, "Ура!" (Cyrillic for "Oora!") Sounded across the land as they jumped up from cover position and sprinted full pelt through the bullets and death towards the German front lines. Reaching it, the three jumped into the trenches, firing their guns empty. German machine guns stopped suddenly because of the confusion, as German soldiers turned their fire away from the company and onto Kazimir and his brothers. This gave way for the company to reach the trenches in time to aid the three brothers and take the rest of the defence line. Kazimir was injured but he never left the trench. The mission was a success.

Kazimir and his brothers were awarded The Order Of Glory Third Degree - 'Awarded to privates and sergeants of the Red Army, and to aviation junior lieutenants, who displayed glorious feats of bravery, courage and fearlessness in combat for the Soviet Motherland.' - original statute.



# Ivan Vamos; My Grandfather's story

Interviewer; Ruby (Vamos) McIntee

With most interviews, you go in blind. Unaware of possible responses and ignorant of the individual who sits in front of you. That was not the case when I opened up my laptop and managed to navigate onto a Zoom call with my grandfather. Before arranging the call, I only knew bits and pieces; odd recollections from the Cod War to the Cold War. My grandfather's story is rich in detail and profoundly important. A holocaust survivor, and veteran of the US Navy (he is very particular about this); he is always able to shine a light on new ideas (don't let him insist it's "just rambles", it's probably not).

The story below is only a snippet of his experience; but part of the larger story my grandfather dedicated to his grandchildren. It's the story of what encouraged my grandfather to tell his story; the story of his family's dog.

Why did I write this? Let's see. How did I begin writing this and drawing it? Afton was a terrible sleeper and grandma assigned me to put him to bed. He was about 2, maybe 3 years old. So I began to tell him stories, about this, about that. And, I didn't succeed in putting him to sleep. At all.

He kept asking, and then what happened? And then what happened? And then what happened?

The only story he found interesting was the story of our dog, Pujsi. The story of our dog would follow. It was a good story. It starts with this photo, at least in my memory. Me and my three friends, we were all kids.

We were having a good time. We were in Hungary. We are in a sort of country house that our family has. Much like the one our family currently has, except we did not have a lake in Hungary. Why were we there? It was, by that time about 1942 or 1943 and we were prohibited from going into pools. We were prohibited from going to the theatre, going to the park. You weren't supposed to sit on a bench if you were a Jew. In some places you couldn't walk on the sidewalk, you would have to walk in the gutter. To us kids that was perfectly fine. We had our dog to take care of us, who herded us around like a good sheepdog should.

Of course, Afton then asked, well, where's the dog now? Can we play with him? I said, well. I don't think he's existing anymore, but I really don't know what happened to him. Afton replied; Did it get run over by traffic? Did it run away?  
No no. I don't think so. We ran away.

The dog stayed.



# The Epic Cycle

Izzy Clark

The Trojan War is one of the oldest wars in human literary history. Documented in the 9th century BCE by the poet Homer in his sprawling epic *The Iliad* - and the surrounding works known as the Epic Cycle - of which only *The Odyssey* survives today. But the story of the Trojan War is not limited to just the ten-year war itself, nor just the works of Homer. Dozens of plays, both lost and recovered, by many different Classical playwrights, help to flesh out the surrounding narrative - both before and after the war.

Homer's original work - and the oldest source about the Trojan War - *The Iliad*, tells the story of the last forty days of the war. Troy - sometimes known as Ilium - now modern-day Hisarlik in Turkey - has been under siege for a decade by the Greeks, who are attacking under the orders of the Spartan King Menelaus, whose wife Helen has been stolen by the younger Trojan Prince, Paris. Menelaus' brother, Agamemnon has shamed the greatest Greek warrior in the combined army, Achilles, who has subsequently refused to fight, thus leading to the Greeks beginning to lose the war. The tides turn, and the Greeks eventually win the war, when Paris' older brother Hector kills Achilles' best friend Patroclus, resulting in Hector's death at the hands of Achilles, and the winning of the war. Just because the war has ended, it does not mean that the suffering of the combatants and innocents involved has ended; a sentiment that still rings true in the modern day. Homer follows *The Iliad* with his second epic poem *The Odyssey*, following the journey of the hero Odysseus from Troy back home to Ithaca - a convoluted voyage that lasts another ten years. Odysseus eventually makes it home to Ithaca, to his wife Penelope and his son Telemachus, but his troubles still aren't over, as he must prove to his wife that he still loves her and hasn't changed despite being away for twenty years.

Another poetic sequel to the *Iliad*, *The Aeneid*, was written over 500 years later, during the age of Rome, and follows the minor Trojan noble, Aeneas, who escapes the burning city of Troy as the Greeks sack it, and eventually makes it to Central Italy, where he founds the city of Rome. The structure of *The Aeneid* mirrors that of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, potentially due to the writer's idolisation of Homer, but also symbolically to show the effects of conflict.

Not all of the participants in the Trojan War get to live the rest of their lives as happily as Odysseus and Aeneas do. The aforementioned Agamemnon returns home and is promptly killed by his wife Clytemnestra, avenging her daughter Iphigenia, whom Agamemnon sacrificed before the war to ensure military success. Ajax the Greater never even makes it home from Troy, being driven mad by the gods and killing himself. The biggest name of *The Iliad*, Achilles, never sees his home either, being killed at Troy by an arrow in the ankle.

The women of Troy, their city destroyed, don't have an easy time. The princess of Troy, Polyxena, is sacrificed in the same manner as Iphigenia, and her mother Hecabe, whilst getting revenge on her son's killer, doesn't get to live happily. Hector's wife Andromache is taken away from her home after the death of her infant son, and never sees Troy again.

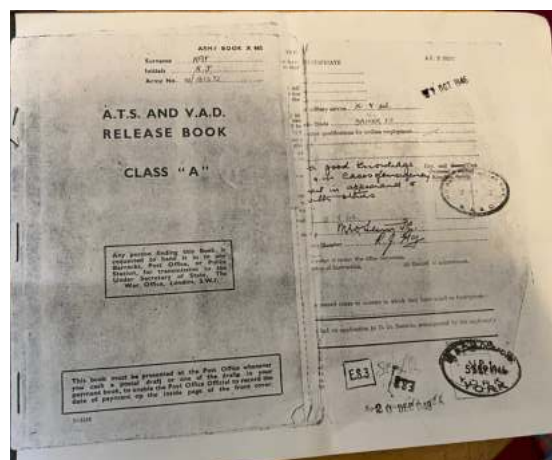
What we learn from the epic cycle and the legends surrounding the Trojan War is that suffering does not end when peace is made between two warring sides. Conflict has long-lasting effects that affect everyone, whether combatants or innocents. Indeed, the consequences of war can far outlast bloodshed and the lives of those involved through remembrance. We're still remembering the Trojan War through literature and theatre, over two thousand years later, and the lessons it can teach us about warfare, suffering and human experiences still ring true today, in the midst of ongoing conflicts.

# Fiona's Story

Ruby McIntee

Images can tell a story; this knowledge was imparted by my other wonderful neighbour, Fiona. While her knowledge of the Second World War is secondhand, the events of 1939-1945 undoubtedly helped shape her life. As it did all people living in Britain.

Below are photos of items Fiona has kept from the war years. From her mother's work bracelet from the factories to photos of the evacuee her family took in and kept in touch with. Each paints a picture of life in Dundee during the war. I am immensely grateful to Fiona for allowing me to share the images and hope they will help deepen your understanding of life in Dundee during the Second World War.



# To Save or Not to Save... That is the Question

Maisey Lafollette

Last weekend we had an extra hour of sleep thanks to the clocks being put back an hour. Officially, this is called Daylight Saving Time. Why is this? Is this for scientific reasons? Is it to do with the positioning of the sun? The long bleak winters? Or simply somebody loved the game of golf?

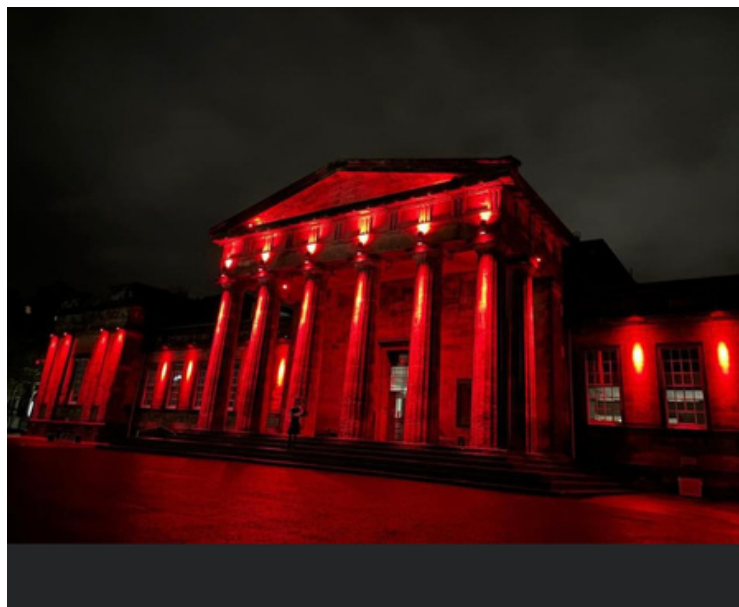
In 1784, Benjamin Franklin, an American inventor, philosopher and politician wrote a letter when he was in Paris joking that Parisians should be woken an hour early by ringing church bells and firing cannons.

In 1895, a New Zealand scientist, George Vernon Hudson requested to his government that the clocks go forward by two hours every summer- he wasn't successful. William Willett a builder petitioned in Britain to change the clocks because he needed more light in the evening to play golf. Sadly in 1915, he died. Shortly after in the spring of 1916, during World War 1 the German Army moved the clocks forward to save energy. Multiple countries in Europe followed.

In 2019, the European Parliament voted to stop Daylight Saving Time requiring all members to decide if they were going to comply by the end of 2021. Until now the decision has been put on hold.

There are mixed opinions about Daylight Saving Time. Some believe it interrupts the natural sleep pattern, which can lead to health problems. Some may argue that darker mornings would make it unsafe for children going to school and workers on the road. The agricultural industry also depends on there being lots of sunlight to get a day's work in. I don't know about any of that, all I know is I love the extra hour of sleep- until they take it back again in March!

**The Columns, lit up red for remembrance.**





# Health Blog:

## The First World War: Shell Shock and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Maya McColgan

In the UK today, over 2.5 million people are likely to have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This is a condition that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a traumatic or life-threatening event or a serious injury.

The condition first came to light during the First World War. It was then described in the medical journal, *The Lancet*, as “Shell Shock.” There were 13, 000 cases of shell shock in the British army by 1915, and 200 ,000 cases over the entire war.

Writing on the effects of Shell Shock, Captain Charles Myers of the Royal Army Medical Corps noted, “the remarkably close similarity” of symptoms in three soldiers who had each been exposed to exploding shells, “Case 1 had endured six or seven shells exploding around him; Case 2 had been buried under earth for 18 hours after a shell collapsed his trench; Case 3 had been blown off a pile of bricks 15 feet high.” All three men showed symptoms of “reduced visual fields,” loss of taste, smell and some memory loss.

Early medical opinion took the view that Shell Shock symptoms were related to the severe concussive motion of the shaken brain in the soldier’s skull. Shell shock, then, was initially deemed to be a physical injury, and the shellshocked soldier was then entitled to a distinguishing “wound stripe” for his uniform, and possible discharge and a war pension. But by 1916, military and medical authorities were convinced that many soldiers exhibiting the characteristic symptoms—trembling; headache; tinnitus; dizziness; poor concentration; confusion; loss of memory; and sleep disorder—had been nowhere near exploding shells. Rather, their condition was one of “neurasthenia,” or weakness of the nerves. In layman’s terms, a nervous breakdown precipitated by the dreadful stress of war.

Today, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can develop after a very stressful, frightening or distressing event, or after a prolonged traumatic experience.

Types of events that can lead to PTSD include:

- Serious accidents
- Physical or sexual assault
- Abuse, including childhood or domestic abuse
- Exposure to traumatic events at work,
- Road accident
- Serious health problems, such as being admitted to intensive care
- Childbirth experiences, such as losing a baby
- The death of someone close to you
- War and conflict • Torture

PTSD develops in about 1 in 3 people who experience severe trauma. It is now a recognised condition and can be treated with cognitive behavioural therapy and/or medication.

During the war years, when shell shock was poorly understood, soldiers were either charged with malingering or sent to hospital where they may have been given anaesthesia such as chloroform or even worse, electric shock treatment. Thankfully, however, soldiers were removed from the front line.

Medical advances aside, shell shock is a tragic reminder of one of the horrific effects of war.

# SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Meagan Dailly

At the beginning of October, Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy was voted out by the Democrats and eight Republicans in the United States Congress. This was a historic moment as it was the first time in United States history that the Speaker of the House was removed.

The Speaker of the House is a partisan representative elected from the US Congress by the members of Congress to do three main jobs:

- 1) To explain the House's agenda, legislation and committee assignments to both the public and government
- 2) To structure and manage the House Floor to ensure productivity in legislative matters
- 3) To oversee all financial matters of the House

Prior to McCarthy being removed as Speaker, there was a series of events which lead to a near government shutdown. Towards the end of last month, MAGA Republicans in the House attempted to cause a shutdown of the federal government by stalling crucial financial legislative bills which allow non-essential US Government offices to keep running. National parks, social services, health care research, and food and education benefits all had to grind to a halt because of the MAGA Republican actions.

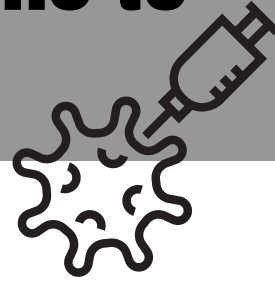
Why did the MAGA Republicans try to do this? The same reason as always; to gain political capital, and because they disagree with the Democrats. Speaker McCarthy worked non-stop to create a bill that would keep the federal government afloat until they reached a better resolution. The bill had hugely decreased spending and imposed strict immigration laws that would appeal to the hard-right Republicans, but not to the Democrats which he needed to pass the bill. The only way to get this bill through the Senate and prevent a total shutdown was for McCarthy to turn to the Democrats for help, which would put his support for the speakership at risk.

Which it did.

McCarthy worked closely with the Democrats to get the bill through the Democrat-dominant Senate and keep the government afloat. This outraged some hard-right members of the house, so they called a vote of no confidence as an attempt to remove the Speaker. Eight Republicans voted against the leader of their own party along with all members of the Democratic party. Although McCarthy worked closely with the Democrats to prevent this government shutdown, the head of the House Democrats urged the Democrats to vote out McCarthy to cause hysteria in the Republican party. They gambled away a stable house for political gain, a common practice in DC.

# Covid Inquiry Threatens to Reveal All

**Jack Mitchell**



I need not give you much background information on the COVID-19 pandemic. As we all lived through the lockdowns and scientific U-turns in question, the one thing you need to remember is that Boris Johnson was Prime Minister during the whole thing. Another is that his premiership wasn't without fault. Far from it. Now, just days after the announcement of his new role on GB News, his former advisors have been revealing the truth of what really took place. They have already told of some controversial events, and while it may not lose him his new reportedly six-figure presenting job, it has the potential to further damage his reputation.

The UK Covid Inquiry, since its inception in June, has been hearing from a wide range of people, including hearing the stories of bereaved families of Covid victims, Matt Hancock apologising for his time as Health Secretary during the crisis, and former Prime Minister David Cameron and his chancellor George Osborne defending spending cuts, among others. Such well-known people as they are, they may have been trumped in terms of evidence given, with Boris Johnson's former advisor Dominic Cummings and the former Director of Communications Lee Cain both giving many pieces of evidence implicating the former Prime Minister. Perhaps the most shocking was that, according to Cain, Boris Johnson favoured older people 'accepting their fate' and letting the younger generation 'get on with life'. Cain said that focusing spending on specific groups was a regular suggestion from his former boss. In fact, Cain said he was obsessed. Both men also told of how the cabinet consistently rubbished science-based facts and how, in some cases, political points were more valuable than lives. Lee Cain agreed that the former Prime Minister wasn't 'well-suited' to the worldwide crisis. Cummings also questioned his suitability for the role in his hearing.

The UK is not alone in chairing serious inquiries into the mishandling of the Covid pandemic. Countries such as Sweden and France have ongoing hearings, whereas others, such as the United States and Germany, are setting similar proceedings up.

As mentioned before, Boris Johnson has become incredibly successful since his resignation as Prime Minister over a year ago. He has made millions of pounds from speeches and other appearances, and could earn over £1 million for his memoirs, in addition to his weekly column for the *Daily Mail* – for reportedly £20,000 per article – and his new presenting role. The fact the far-right GB News – which has recently seen heavy scrutiny after it aired Laurence Fox's misogynistic comments – has invested so much into the former politician shows that, despite his scandalous tenure as Prime Minister, and shocking comments, he has regained his large audience. He *still* has a significant number of people who will stand by him. Even after almost 230,000 people lost their lives.

## GREAT BRITAIN AND UGANDA

Roena Seenarine

World War Two played a significant role in British history and its repercussions are still felt today, all of the valiant soldiers must be honoured and remembered, which is why I'd like to share the story of my great-grandfather Peter Watuwa. He was born in a city in the very east of Uganda called Mbale in the 1910s. Uganda was a protectorate of the British Empire from 1894 to 1962, which meant that the local rulers such as chiefs retained absolute control over the states' internal affairs and the British simply exercised control over defence and foreign affairs. Ironically, in World War II it was Ugandan natives that were fighting for British interests.

My great-grandfather was fortunate enough to have received a proper education which resulted in him being able to speak English and multiple native languages fluently. This was somewhat uncommon at this time, particularly in more rural areas. His linguistic skills are part of what led him to become a commanding officer in the Ugandan military, where his main roles would have been in leadership and giving orders to the large sum of soldiers who were incapable of communicating with one another.

In the Battle of Madedda, Ugandan troops engaged the Italians in combat for the first time. Later, they fought in the Middle East and Egypt, which was crucial since some German soldiers had made their way into Egypt and Libya, which eventually assisted in debilitating German forces. These Ugandan forces played a crucial role in the Allied battle in the region by seizing important strategic locations and obstructing Axis activities throughout North Africa.

Uganda's involvement in World War II left behind significant and lasting impacts on the nation as a whole. Many Ugandans came home with enhanced feelings of pride in their country and newfound skills and experiences from their vital contributions to the British war effort. Leaders who would later play significant roles in Uganda's march towards independence emerged during the post-war era, ultimately paving the way for the country's self-rule and the end of colonialism. Uganda's involvement in World War II is still regarded as a pivotal moment in its history, having acted as a driving force behind the nation's ascent to independence.

In conclusion, the involvement of Uganda and other East African countries in Britain's war efforts was more significant than many people realised. This highlights how important it is to share stories such as my great-grandfather Peter's can be in expanding our knowledge of world history and understanding different perspectives

## EDITORS' NOTE

War and conflict affect all of us. Even if we do not know someone directly involved, wars throughout human history have shaped our modern society in ways we do not recognise. But war is unfortunately not just a thing of the past. Often, we take remembrance for granted, but this year, when we are surrounded by news about suffering and devastation, it's vitally important to remember the value of human life, and by remembering the past and considering the present, to strive towards a better, peaceful future.

Editor, Izzy Clark

*have a fab weekend!*

THE COLUMNS TEAM