



Quotes from British historians in response to Norman Walter August 2013:

“I understand Germany’s position. There is no virtue (point) in offending Germany. But if we are going to be honest to (about) the history of this war from a British perspective (point of view), then it (the commemoration of the war) can’t all be about waste and futility. A lot of people fought and died thinking it (the First World War) was worthwhile. We need to respect what those motivations (reasons for doing something) were. It’s not about being triumphalist, or even necessarily celebratory. It is about acknowledging that when the war ended there was a victory. The allies thought it was pretty important and would have been pretty disastrous if they had lost it.”

Sir Huw Strachan, historian.

“The Great War (the First World War) still casts a shadow over modern Europe today. It’s entirely right that we be respectful and commemorate the fallen from whichever side. But it would be a failure to history if we didn’t recognise not only the causes and consequences of the war, but that there were winning sides and losing sides.”

Chris Skidmore, historian and Conservative MP.

Quote from historian Tristram Hunt (also a Labour MP) about the commemoration of the First World War:

“Important too, is that we remember the real First World War.
Respect for the awesome sacrifice of an entire generation is paramount (*of greatest importance*).

But the tone should be of solemn remembrance – there is little to celebrate in what can only be described as a human catastrophe.