Football and the First World War

Did you know that…

✔ There was a ‘Footballers’ Battalion’ during the First World War?

✔ Players from Chelsea, Manchester United, Liverpool, Manchester City, Arsenal and Tottenham fought during the First World War…and supporters fought alongside them?

✔ Everton were the Champions of the last league season before football was suspended because of the First World War…and Tottenham were relegated?

✔ Regional wartime football leagues were played from 1915-18. The most successful clubs were Nottingham Forest, Leeds City and Chelsea, all of whom won their regional league twice during the First World War?

✔ Women’s football became very popular during the First World War - only for the Football Association to ban women from playing on clubs’ grounds in 1921?

Visit the ‘Football and the First World War’ website for the most comprehensive information on the role of football during the First World War

You will find information that will not only deepen your understanding of the football during the time of the First World War, but also how football changed and grew after the war.

Football and the First World War has information on English and Scottish clubs during the war, the players who fought, were they are buried/commemorated, wartime football leagues, team kits, and the 1914/15 football season which was controversially completed despite the country being at war.

‘Football and the First World War’ has lots of information which will support students wanting to undertake a post-tour ‘Legacy 110’ project on football.