

CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC HISTORY
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
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Friends of the ANU Centre for Economic History,

Welcome to this issue of the CEH newsletter. It contains a report on our workshop on WW1 casualties and the programme for the 8th annual AusClio Workshop on November 5th, so prepare for the fireworks! Once again, thanks for your interest in the Centre for Economic History. We hope that you keep safe and well.

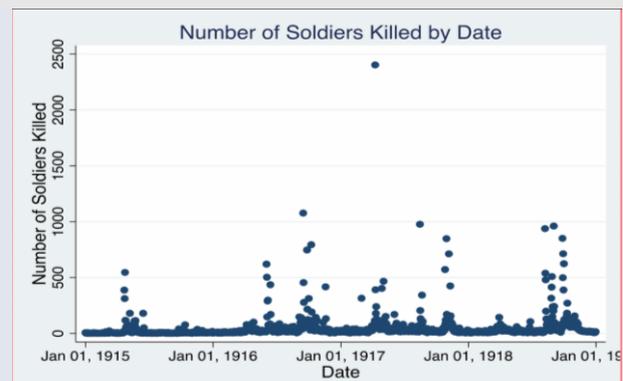
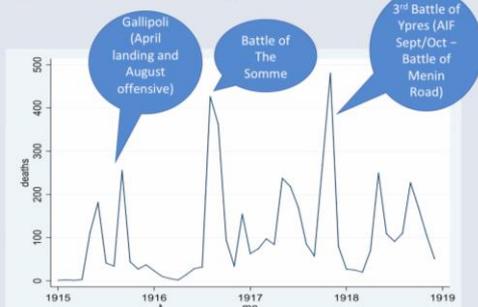
Tim Hatton, CEH Director

CEH Workshop Report: Life and Death in the WW1 Trenches: Causes and Consequences

World War I was a tragic event that caused enormous loss of life, devastated a swathe of Europe, and marked the end of one epoch and the beginning of another. While the implications of the loss of life and livelihood have been widely studied, the incidence of death and injury and its consequences have only recently attracted the interest of quantitative economic historians. This CEH workshop brought together a group of presenters from three continents courtesy of Zoom.

The workshop opened with Nico Meffe (Stats Canada) who examined the incidence of death in action of French Canadians. He found that they had lower death rates than Anglophones largely because they enlisted later in the war (until conscription, late in 1917), while other personal characteristics mattered less. Zoomers puzzled over why French Canadians were more reluctant to defend France; perhaps it was due to the loss of identification with their ancestral country. John Wilson (UniSA) examined deaths among the Australian Imperial Force, finding higher incidence of death among agricultural and unskilled workers and those born in England and Scotland. Participants pondered the variations across states, particularly the high death rate of Tasmanians, which was thought to be the result of where and when local regiments were deployed.

Timing (Aus B sample) – Deaths per month



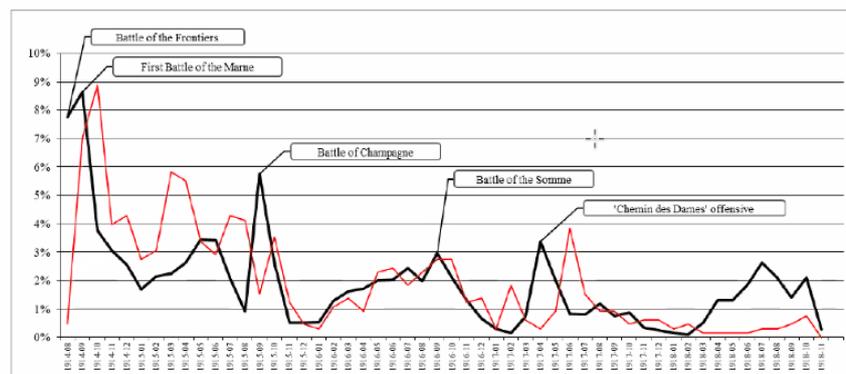
Deaths by month of Australian soldiers (left) and Canadian soldiers (right)

Report: Life and Death in WW1, continued



Presenters Nico Meffe, John Wilson and Evan Roberts

Evan Roberts (Minnesota) examined the incidence of post-war suicides among New Zealand soldiers, which were higher than the population average and higher than ex-servicemen after World War 2. Among the soldiers, suicide was more common for those who suffered wartime injury, which led members of the audience to reflect on the reluctance of soldiers to discuss their wartime traumas. Focusing on executions of soldiers in the French army, Antoine Parent (Sciences Po) found that these closely followed the profile of deaths in action and were not because executed soldiers held deviant ideological or political principles. In light of the concentration of executions in the first two years of the war, workshop participants wondered if the harshness of army policy had acted as a (possibly successful) deterrent against desertion or cowardice while in action.



Deaths in action (black) and executions of French soldiers (red)

Pauline Grosjean (UNSW) found that French collaborators with Germany in World War II were disproportionately from municipalities where the local regiment had fought at Verdun in World War I under General Petain, the hero of Verdun. His iconic status legitimised anti-democratic values and galvanised support for the Vichy regime. Participants pondered the links between localities and regiments that were present at Verdun, and the mechanisms that translated heroism into collaboration with the Nazis a generation later. There followed an open session in which participants discussed new databases that included the geocoding of the residences of Australian servicemen, data on veteran status in the US 1930 census, and the linking of individuals between British army service records and population censuses.

Report: Life and Death in WW1, continued



Presenters Antoine Parent, Pauline Grosjean and Victor Gay

Following this theme, Victor Gay (Toulouse) explained in detail the origins and development of the *Morts pour la France*, a comprehensive database of those who ‘died for France’ in World War I. Participants discussed linkages to the censuses of 1911 and 1921, and possible research questions that these data could be used to address. Bringing up the rear, Tim Hatton (Essex/ANU) examined the survival probabilities of British servicemen, emphasising the sharp difference between those enlisting in infantry regiments and those joining other branches of the army. While officers suffered much higher casualties than ordinary soldiers, within the ordinary ranks those from middle class backgrounds did not face higher risks of death or injury in action. Audience members considered the reasons for non-randomness in death and injury and drew comparisons with the experience of army servicemen from other countries. The workshop closed with a Zoom handwave and a resolution to keep the discussion going.—TH.

Centre for Economic History Discussion Paper Series

The CEH website hosts a discussion paper series on a variety of topics in economic history. Recent additions to the series are as follows:

2021-04 “Did the Executions of French Soldiers during the Great War Reflect Their Pacifist Views?” by Olivier Guillot and Antoine Parent

Centre affiliates and visitors are encouraged to submit working papers to the series. All papers are available at: <https://ideas.repec.org/s/auu/hpaper.html>

CEH news and working papers at: <https://www.rse.anu.edu.au/research/centres-projects/centre-for-economic-history/>

The CEH welcomes courtesy announcements from affiliates and interested parties for inclusion in our newsletter (subject to editing). Please send news items to:
tim.hatton@anu.edu.au

All CEH affiliates who are registered with RePEc are invited to add the Centre as an affiliation on IDEAS: <https://edirc.repec.org/data/cpanuau.html>

8th Australasian Cliometrics Workshop Programme

Friday, 5th November 2021

Registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/8th-ausclio-tickets-179419306977>

Location:

University of Melbourne (if in-person meeting is possible); Zoom link will be sent to all registrants as well.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Workshop Programme

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 9:15 – 9:30 | Arrival and welcome-Zooming in |
| 9:30 – 10:15 | Presenter: Weijia Li (Monash University)
<i>Hobbesian Wars and Democracy</i>
Discussant: Renaud Coulomb (University of Melbourne) |
| 10:15 – 11:00 | Presenter: Maxim Ananyev (University of Melbourne)
<i>The Cold Summer of 1953: Prison Culture and Homophobia in Russia</i>
Discussant: Jan Kabatek (University of Melbourne) |
| 11:00 – 11:45 | Presenter: Laura Panza (University of Melbourne)
<i>Waking the giants: historical ideology and contemporary xenophobia</i>
Discussant: Sascha Becker (Monash University) |
| 11:45 – 13:00 | Lunch break |
| 13:00 – 13:45 | Presenter: John Tang (University of Melbourne)
<i>Literacy and occupational mobility: evidence from Brazil</i>
Discussant: Dean Hoi (University of Melbourne) |
| 13:45 – 14:30 | Presenter: David Jacks (NUS)
<i>Urban Mortality and the Repeal of Federal Prohibition</i>
Discussant: Florian Ploeckl (University of Adelaide) |
| 14:30 – 14:45 | Coffee Break |
| 14:45 – 15:30 | Presenter: Joy Chen (Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business)
<i>Leviathan's Offer: State-Building with Elite Compensation in Early Medieval China</i>
Discussant: Xinran Xu (University of Melbourne) |
| 15:30 -16:15 | Presenter: Haikun Zhan (University of Melbourne)
<i>Central Administration and the Rise of Local Institutions: Evidence from Imperial China</i>
Discussant: Chicheng Ma (University of Hong Kong) |