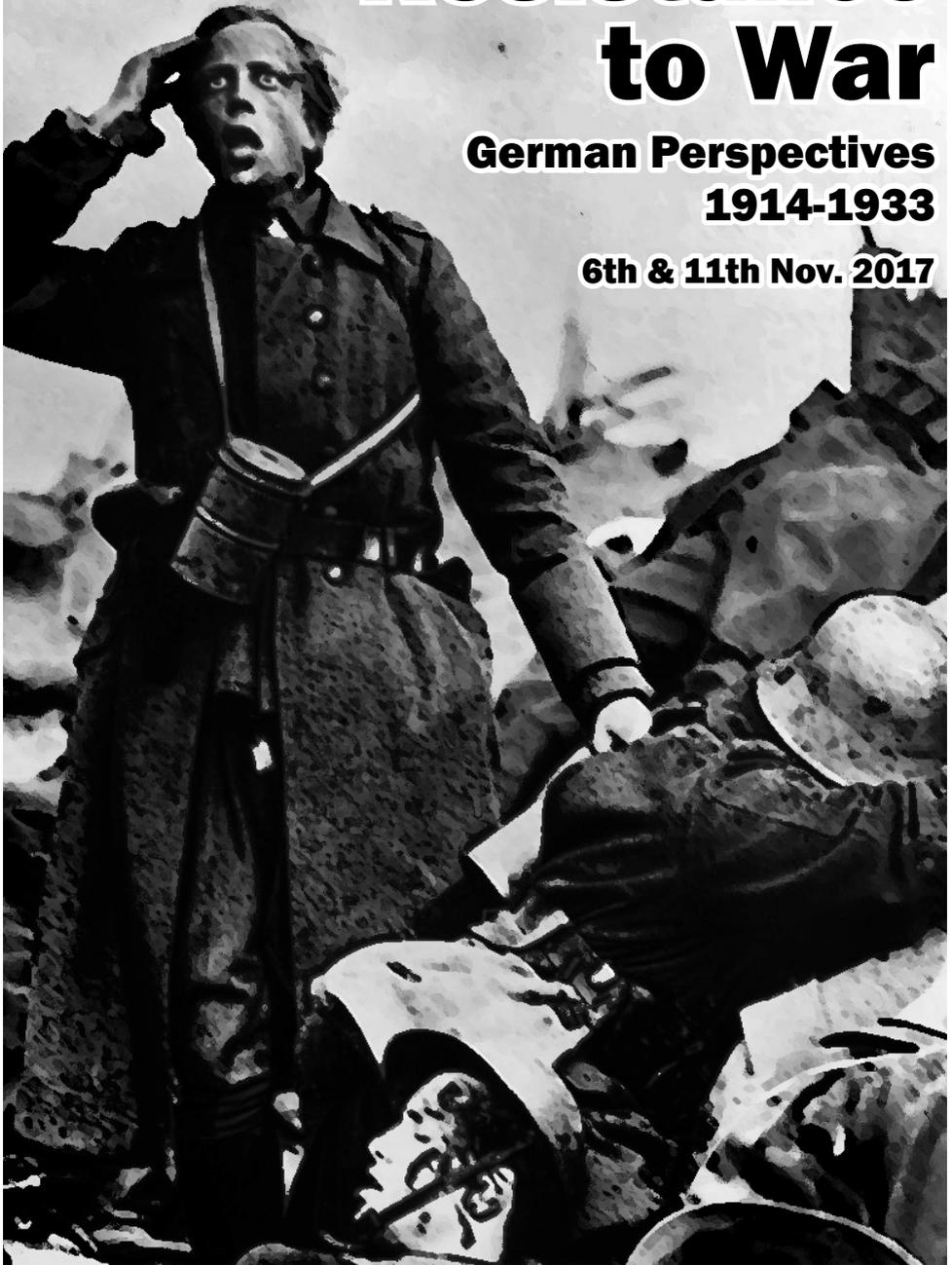


Remembering The Real World War 1 & BRHG presents

Resistance to War

**German Perspectives
1914-1933**

6th & 11th Nov. 2017



Saturday 11th November 2017 - 1:30pm to 4:45pm

M Shed: Studio 1, Princes Wharf, Wapping Road, BS1 4RN

Resistance to War: German Perspectives 1914-1933

1:30	Introduction	Mike Levine
1:45	Making a stand	Ingrid Sharpe
2:30	How to stop a war	Roger Ball
3:15	15 minute break	
3:30	Remembering my father	Merilyn Moos
4:15	Panel discussion	

Mike Levine—*Introduction: Why we are holding these talks on Nov 11*

On November 11th, Armistice Day, nearly 100 years after the First World war ended, we traditionally mourn the British and allied dead. In fact, the war was a tragedy for all the peoples who took part and we should mourn all those who died.

There were people on both sides who opposed the war at the time and said it was a waste of human life and resources. These talks recount the little-known histories of some of those Germans who opposed war between 1914 and 1933.

In Britain, remembrance ceremonies are accompanied by military parades which glamorise war. By implication, the sacrifices of previous generations are presented as an example to be followed by the present generation in the next war. This is a powerful and abiding idea, deep in the British psyche. In modern Europe with nations at peace with each other since 1945, this seems completely inappropriate and dangerous.

Ingrid Sharpe—*Making a stand: German opposition to World War One*

During and after the First World War, ‘German’ and ‘Germany’ became bywords for militarism and a hundred years later commemoration of the First World War centenary can sometimes give the impression that the war was accepted without opposition in Germany, and that the First World War was fought without any dissenting German voices. This talk will look beyond German militarism at the various forms of anti-war resistance practiced by German citizens, including those conscripted into the German army.

Before the war, there were social, political and religious forces against militarism that were largely suppressed but not destroyed by military censorship. The terrible experience of war also created new opposition among the scientists, politicians and soldiers who participated in it and a small but determined minority within the organised women's movement formed international links across enemy lines to speak out against the war and to influence the peace processes.

Roger Ball—*How to stop a war: The German servicemen's revolt of 1918*

The German revolution of 1918-20 and its violent suppression is a little known event in the British popular memory. Where it is described the narrative typically commences with the mutiny of sailors from the German High Seas fleet over the first few days of November 1918. However, the numerous actions against the continuation of the war by hundreds of thousands of German soldiers on the western front during the preceding summer, have been exposed in recent years through the work of historian Nick Howard.

Drawing extensively on the research and writings of Howard, this talk exposes the scale and content of this resistance, which developed from refusals, desertion and mutiny to the formation of Soldiers' Councils, the organisational cells of the revolution that followed. It also charts the extraordinary events in 'occupied' Belgium where, in the autumn of 1918, nationalist war transformed into internationalist civil war.

Merilyn Moos—*Remembering my father: from the Bavarian workers rising of 1918 to resisting the rise of the Nazis.*

My talk will draw on my father's remarkable life in Germany up till 1933. I will use it to illustrate how the Nazis first built on the defeat of the 1918/19 Bavarian workers (and sailors) uprising, a consequence of the war, by the viciously anti-Communist *Freikorps*. My father, having observed the early Nazis and more aware than many on the left of how dangerous they were, was later deeply involved in the almost forgotten resistance to the Nazis pre-1933. He was active in a number of organisations associated with the German Communist Party, such as the *Red Front* who opposed the Nazis on the streets, sports organisations, humanist clubs and of course agit-prop theatre. We know the deadly end of this story but my father, unlike many of his comrades, lived to fight another day.

Monday 6th November 2017

The Cube, Dove Street South, BS2 8JD

Westfront 1918 (Vastfronten 1918)

Vastfronten 1918 Dir: Georg Wilhelm Pabst, 1930, 97 mins, Cert: PG

We are very pleased to provide a rare chance to see what has been acclaimed as ‘one of the greatest anti-war films’. Made in 1930 by the acclaimed German director Georg Pabst, this sub-titled version is screened thanks to the support of the Goethe-Institut and introduced by Humberto Perez-Blanco, Senior Lecturer in Film Studies at UWE.

Westfront 1918 was made at the same time as the Hollywood production of *All Quiet on the Western Front* but with a bleaker tone consistent with Pabst’s earlier films. It was particularly pioneering in its early use of sound—it was Pabst’s first “talkie”—with Pabst managing to record live audio during complex tracking shots through the trenches.

Westfront 1918 was a critical success when it was released, although it was often shown in truncated form. With the rise of the Nazis, the film quickly became considered by the German authorities as ‘unsuitable’, notably for its obvious pacifism, and for its clear denunciation of war. This was an attitude that propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels would label as “cowardly defeatism”.

“One of the greatest anti-war films of the 20th century”

Louder than War website

“The banned classic of international solidarity”

Senses of Cinema film journal

“Cowardly defeatism”

Joseph Goebbels



For more details email rememberingrealww1@gmail.com

www.network23.org/realww1/

Bristol Radical History Group www.brh.org.uk