

Senior Essay 2nd Place
Sofia D.
Branch 314 Manotick
Zone G-3

The Treaty

Some say it was a triumphant end to the war. Some say otherwise. Many young men had died, both Allies and Axis powers. We mourned the deaths, of our fathers and sons, brothers and husbands. We were scared of another war. The Great War encompassed most of Europe and North America. It was a tragedy, never have there been so much fighting.

Some say it was a heroic war. Some say it was unnecessary. My mother believes the boys were sent to their deaths. I lost two brothers in the Battle of the Sommes. It was a bloodbath, so I've been told. One of my brothers was 16. He had lied about his age. My other brother was 20.

When the war ended, Germany, was blamed. I've read in the paper, when my father wasn't looking, that The League of Nations, decided to make a treaty. The Treaty of Versailles. Some say it was imperative to the safety of our country. Others say it'll just start another war. I'm not quite sure what to think.

I'm proud of Canada. I'm proud of our soldiers, those who died and those who lived. They sacrificed everything they have and know, for us, for Canada. They were all boys. Some were 16. Some were 23. They had their whole lives in front of them but, they didn't hesitate to sign up for the war. I believe that's the reason the treaty was made. It was to insure our boys safety, to not go to war again. It was to keep the peace among the fragile relationships across Europe and North America.

We forced Germany to take the blame. The war may have been their fault, it may not have. I don't really know. My father doesn't want me to know of war, it's not something a proper young lady should occupy herself with. But I do know that what our boys did for us was something brave. Hopefully, the Treaty won't start another war. That's what my brother, Lawrence, says. He is not the same anymore, his eyes are hollow, his movements mechanic. The war did that to him. The war changed him.

Lawrence gave me a paper on the Treaty. It was signed on June 28 1919. It was to punish Germany for what they had done. They now have to pay for war reparations to the Allied countries. Imagine, having to pay for a war when many of your people had just died? The paper says their colonies are no longer theirs, other countries were given parts of German land and Germany's military is now severely restricted.

I understand the reasoning. War is complicated, inexplicable. People don't quite know what is right or what is wrong. All they know is to protect what they stand for.

Some say it was a triumphant end to the war. It is difficult to describe what I feel and think. War is a complex matter, something in which I do not know enough about but, for certain, I believe in remembrance. I believe we must honour our soldiers, those who died in the line of service and those who continue to live today. We must honour the soldiers to come, whether it'll be 20, 55 or 100 years from now, they deserve to be recognized. The soldiers of today, tomorrow and yesterday must be remembered for their sacrifice, their bravery, their service.