

Brian Hatton

## Art and Design - Pupil's notes

### Theme - 'The Lost Generation'

#### Introduction

Brian Hatton died in the First World War aged 28, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1916, at the Battle of Oghratina in Egypt, where he had been sent to fight the Turkish forces that had joined the central powers (Germany Austro-Hungary and Bulgaria) in 1914. Volunteering in the heat of battle to ride for help from the nearby Gloucester Regiment, Brian disappeared into the desert and was never seen again. His body was found months later. In his wallet was a tiny photograph of his wife.

From an early age, Brian Hatton showed a keen interest in horses in action. The first image, 'The Tournament', demonstrates his remarkable observation of horses and armour. Many of his early drawings and paintings were influenced by the stories of King Arthur and his knights, Walter Scott and Byron, so reflect scenes of conflict.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> September 1914, Brian joined the Worcester Yeomanry as a trooper. During his time in the army, Brian produced several pieces of work including, 'Civilisation', 'Scene in the Café Royale', 'Advance Guard Patrolling a Road' and 'Signalling, Enemy in Sight.' These continued to reflect his fascination with horses. Most of these were completed using charcoal, black ink and white gouache with a grey wash. Why do you think that might be?

The young men who volunteered to fight for their country had little idea of what lay before them, yet within days or weeks of reaching the front line they had experienced the realities of war.



#### **Title of Artwork: 'Civilisation'**

Brian drew this in 1915, before he went into active service. It was based on accounts he must have heard, in spite of censorship. It was very different from the works he had produced before. He may have wanted to offer this to a newspaper, but it is unlikely that a picture showing so clearly the stark horrors of war would have been printed.

During the First World War, 908,371 soldiers from the British Empire were killed in action, or died of their injuries or disease. These countries included Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India. Approximately

750,000 of these men were from Great Britain. The men who died in this war became known as 'The Lost Generation'.

### Useful Web link

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/FWWdeaths.htm>

Casualties of war

## Lesson activities - Creating an artwork

**Key Question - How effective is the artwork 'Civilisation' in depicting an image of war and conflict?**

### Podcast

There is a podcast of Brian Hatton's last letter to his wife read by the actress Miranda Richardson – go to ['The Lost Generation', Podcast](#)

### Resources

- 'Civilisation' artwork – found at the end of this document
- Images of objects relating to the First World War from the Brian Hatton collection – found at the end of this document.
- Image of poppy, military graveyard, war memorial, temporary cross, medals, Brian Hatton's gravestone – found below in Art and Design activity 1 in this document.

### Useful web links

<http://www.art-ww1.com/gb/visite.html>

Art of the First World War

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/FWWart.htm>

Spartacus First World War art pages

<http://www.channel4.com/history/microsites/L/lostgeneration/>

Channel 4 site on 'The Lost Generation'

### Activity 1 - Brian Hatton's 'Civilisation'

Look carefully at the image 'Civilisation'. This work was created in 1915. The following media have been used; charcoal, black ink and gouache.

Think about

- How does this artwork make you feel?
- How is this image different from his other war images?
- How has the artist conveyed the horrors of war?
- Why has he depicted this particular image?

- Why do you think this piece has been done in monochrome (with no colour?)
- How do you think this would look if colours had been used?

## Activity 2 - Creating an artwork

Imagine that you have been asked to create an installation/art work for a museum display entitled 'The Lost Generation'. This should reflect your own interpretation of conflict during the First World War.

These are some well-known images associated with the First World War that you can use for your inspiration.



Make several quick sketches of your ideas using these images or other sources or inspiration.

Think about

- What colours might you use to symbolise 'The Lost Generation'  
Remember, colour can be used to convey meaning
- The images you might want to include
- Using line to create movement
- Shape/s to show anger/danger

ICT can be used to complete this activity using the images supplied. If you decide to create a 3D installation, consider the different shapes/forms that you could use to display your images.

Please note this activity could be adapted to create a piece called 'Conflict'.



**Civilisation**



**Spurs**



**Dead Man's Penny**

## Dead Man's Penny (full)

