

## Suffering of the war cripples

Exercise 1: Read the information text below and note its main content

Exercise 2: Read the documents M1 and M2 than view the images Q3 and Q4. Think about how a wounded soldier must have felt when he came home. Note important keywords.

### Information text:

In the First World War ten million soldiers died over a period of 52 months. "Twenty million men were severely wounded; eight million veterans returned home permanently disabled."<sup>1</sup> Alone in the German Reich one and a half million men returned home as disabled persons.

In the First World War the armies fought with modern warfare material. Whereas in the past they fought with daggers and handguns, in WW1 especially heavy artillery, grenades, toxic gas and the long known machine guns caused a high destructiveness. The weapons were built to wound the soldiers.

Simultaneously with the innovations in the technology of war there was a medical advance in their interventions and surgical techniques. So many

hard-wounded soldiers could be saved from the



Image Q1: 21 cm Mörser was a heavy howitzer used by Germany, postcard dated to May 1916.

death.

However, the consequences of which the "war cripples" had to deal with, brought them into a difficult-to-master life task.<sup>2</sup>

### Important from the information text:

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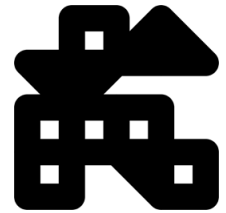
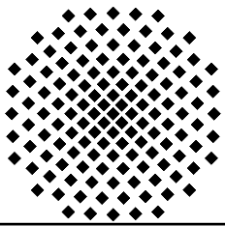
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Image Q2: Transport of the wounded, postcard undated.

<sup>1</sup> Cohen, Deborah: Will to Work. Disabled Veterans in Britain and Germany after the First World War. In: Gerber, David (ed.): Disabled Veterans in History. Michigan<sup>4</sup> 2003. P. 295-321, P. 295.

<sup>2</sup> Bihr, Simon: Entkrüppelung der Krüppel. Der Siemens-Schucker-Arbeitsarm und die Kriegsinvalidenfürsorge in Deutschland während des Ersten Weltkrieges. In: NTM. Zeitschrift für Geschichte der Wissenschaften, Technik und Medizin 21 (2013) P. 107-141.



**M1:**

„There aren't people [...] There are heads and knees [...] There are chests with fist-sized holes and pulpy, formless thighs; and stumps where once legs were attached. There are eyes - eyes like sick dogs or sick cats, eyes of delirium; and mouths that can't speak; and parts of faces - lacking the nose or jaw.

There are these things but there are no humans [...]. Surely they were once human. But now they are no people anymore.“

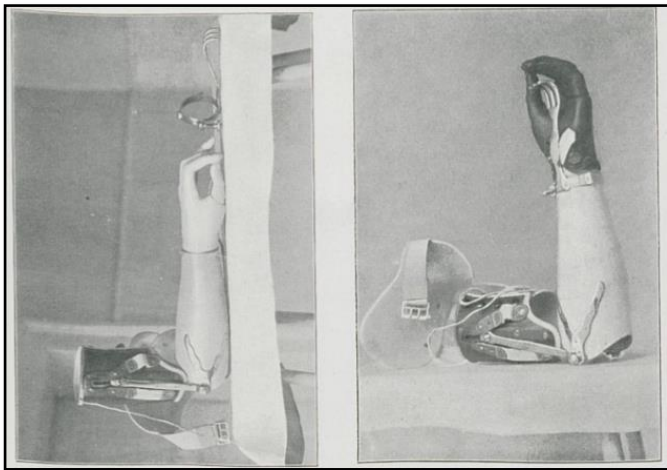


Image Q3: artificial limb for amputation in the forearm

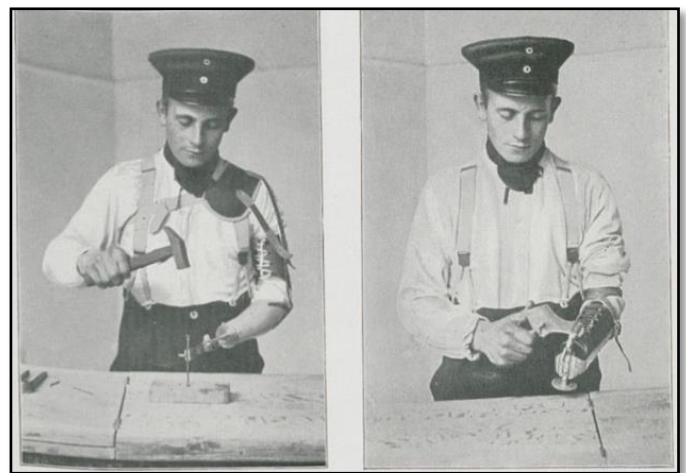


Image Q4: war cripple with artificial arm

**Important keywords for exercise 2:**

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Bild Q1: Kunst- und Verlagsanstalt Schaar & Dathe: Einundzwanziger Mörser in Feuerstellung. Courtesy of: <http://www.bildpostkarten.uni-osnabrueck.de/displayimage.php?album=97&pos=81> (20.02.2015).

Bild Q2: N.N.: Verwundetentransport. Courtesy of: <http://www.bildpostkarten.uni-osnabrueck.de/displayimage.php?album=105&pos=187> (20.02.2015).

Text M1: Cited after: Tatar, Maria: Entstellung im Vollzug. Das Gesicht des Krieges in der Malerei. In: Schmölders, Claudia v. / Gilman, Sandra (Ed.): Gesichter der Weimarer Republik. Köln 2000. P. 113–129, P. 113.

Bild Q3: HSTAS: M 1/8 Bü 256. Sippel, Fritz: Wie verhelfen wir den Kriegsverstümmelten durch Ersatzglieder wieder zur Arbeitsfähigkeit und zum Eintritt in das bürgerliche Berufsleben? Stuttgart 1915. P. 37.

Bild Q4: Ibit.