

Questions to Encourage Class Discussion on OPCW FIRES Film [Which side do you belong to?](#)

This film follows filmmaker, Donal Fernandes, and his wife Olga as they research what happened to two of Donal's Irish great uncles, Frederick Falkener and his brother George, as they fought for the United Kingdom in World War I. George was a soldier and died at Ypres, aged 19, on 16 August 1917. Five days later on 21 August, Frederick, a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps, was shot down and killed. This film explores issues around belonging, nationality, and the need to remember.

Questions

1. Is religion important in wars?
2. How important is it to remember / honour those who died in war?
3. Should nationality be important in remembrance?
4. What happens when new technologies or weapons are used in war? Can they be decisive?
5. What were the consequences of the use of mustard gas?
6. What long-term consequences do wars have for people and the environment? Are there any measures you need to introduce to deal with the consequences?
7. Are humans binary? Can they only belong to one side or to another? Is manicheism at work in minds, an inevitable prelude to war?
8. What is arms race logic? How did the chemical weapons-race develop during World War I?
9. What makes chemical weapons so frightening?