“Kultur vs. Humanity”
This Canadian Victory Bond poster evokes the image of the Llandovery Castle, a Canadian hospital ship torpedoed by German U-boat U-86, off the coast of Ireland on 27 June 1918. The attack killed 234 people, including 94 Canadian medical officers and nurses. At the bottom of the poster is the message: “Kultur vs. Humanity.” Wartime propaganda soon referred to German Kultur (culture) as a damning insult, a supposed predisposition for war, cruelty, and destructiveness that placed Germany outside the community of civilized nations. A total effort against such an enemy was more than justified, it was expected.

Fund-Raising Poster   CWM 198520475-034
Don't Waste Bread!

The U-Boat campaign in 1917 brought increased shortages to Britain as hundreds of merchant ships carrying food and ammunition were sunk. Shortages and inflation led to high food prices and unfair distribution of food. In early 1918, sugar, meat, and fat were rationed as a fair way to allocate food and other scarce resources amongst the population.

Propaganda Poster CWM 19720121-074
U Boote Heraus! (U-Boats Launch!)
This German poster depicts a U-Boat officer looking through a periscope. In the background, a torpedoed ship is sinking.
Propaganda Poster       CWM 19920143-007
Resources: Propaganda Posters

Remember the ‘Lusitania’
The British transformed the sinking of the passenger ship Lusitania by a German U-Boat on 7 May 1915 into a wide spread propaganda campaign. It incited hatred against Germany and, as the poster shows, encouraged recruitment “to avenge this devil’s work.”

Wartime Recruitment Poster CWM 19670086-007
Canadiens-Français, Enrolez Vous! (French Canadians, Enlist!)
This recruitment poster for the 163rd Battalion depicts a Canadian infantry soldier standing shoulder to shoulder with a French soldier. This image, made an appeal to French-Canadians’ illustrious military history with specific references to famous soldiers, including the Marquis de Montcalm, who had died in 1759 attempting to defend Quebec against British attack. It also highlights the links that existed between Canada and France, and asks French-speaking Quebecers, in an oblique reference to the Quebec Act passed in 1774, if they would prefer Prussian (German) institutions to their own. The unit is named after Charles-Michel d’Irumberry de Salaberry, who raised and commanded a French militia unit during the War of 1812, and successfully defeated a stronger American force at the Battle of Chateauguay in 1813.
**150ième Carabiniers (150th Battalion)**

A uniformed soldier of the 150th Battalion urges enlistment in this French-Canadian recruitment poster. Because this battalion was unable to meet its authorized strength, it was broken up, its troops sent as reinforcements to the 22nd Battalion, the only French-Canadian infantry battalion that served at the front.

Wartime Recruiting Poster CWM 19820376-009
Help the Boys

Shells explode and German soldiers flee in panic, in this colourful recruitment poster for the 245th Battalion, Canadian Grenadier Guards. Raised in Montreal, the 245th sailed to England in 1917 where the battalion was broken up and absorbed by the 23rd Reserve Battalion. The soldiers were subsequently sent to the front as reinforcements for numerous other front line battalions.

Wartime Recruiting Poster CWM 19820376-004
Souscrivez a l’Emprunt de la Victoire (Subscribe to the Victory Loan)

Canada created the War Poster Service in 1916 to produce posters in both official languages. As the war progressed and the need for money and soldiers became more pressing, posters became more graphic and direct in their messages. In this poster, a Canadian soldier pointedly asks members of the public to buy war bonds in support of the war effort. The design was based loosely on the popular and mass-produced 1914 poster of Lord Kitchener, the British Secretary of State for War, exhorting Britons to join the British Army.

Fund-Raising Poster CWM 19920166-186
Fight with Food

Poster urging all Canadians on the home front to eat less wheat, meat, dairy products, and beans so that these foods could be sent overseas. Canadians were also directed to eat more fish, vegetables, fruits, and other grains. Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden is quoted at the bottom, “The food crisis is grave and urgent beyond the possibility of exaggeration.”

Food Conservation Poster CWM 20070104-108
“Once a German – Always a German!”

An outrageous anti-German propaganda poster that draws upon stories of the atrocities committed by Germans during the war, from the occupation of Belgium, the bayoneting of a baby, the execution of civilians, the murder of Nurse Edith Cavell, and unrestricted submarine warfare that targeted innocent civilian ships. This British poster encouraged citizens not to hire Germans or buy German goods.

Propaganda Poster CWM 19720121-086