## **Vera Brittain**



Vera Mary Brittain was a British writer and pacifist, best remembered as the author of the best-selling 1933 memoir Testament of Youth, recounting her experiences during World War I and the beginning of her journey towards pacifism.

## **Brief Biography:**

- Vera Brittain was born in 1893.
- She delayed her degree after one year in the summer of 1915 to work as a V.A.D. nurse for much of the First World War.
- Her fiancé Roland Leighton, two other close friends Victor Richardson and Geoffrey Thurlow, and her brother Edward Brittain MC were all killed during the war.
- In 1933 she published *Testament of Youth*, which was followed by the sequels *Testament of Friendship* and *Testament of Experience*. Vera Brittain wrote from the heart and based many of her novels on actual experiences and actual people.
- In 1937 she joined the Peace Pledge Union and the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship. Her newly found pacifism came to the fore during World War II, when she began the series of *Letters to Peacelovers*.
- She was a practical pacifist in the sense that she helped the war effort by working as a fire warden and raising funds for food relief campaigns but was vilified for speaking out against saturation bombing of German.
- From the 1930s onward, she was a regular contributor to the pacifist magazine *Peace News*. She eventually became a member of the magazine's editorial board, and during the 1950s and 1960s wrote many articles against apartheid and colonialism and for nuclear disarmament.
- She died in 1960.
- Her daughter is the politician and academic Dame Shirley Williams.















