

## **Process Paper**

I originally recognized the potential of this project last year when I was looking at options for topics. I didn't end up doing it in the former year, but I kept it in mind when choosing a topic for this year's theme, Turning Points in History. I felt as though Harold Gillies fit the theme perfectly and I became more and more impressed by him while working on the website. I've always had an interest in science and I'm actually interested in going into the field of medicine as a career. When I started researching Gillies, there was simply no choice but to pick him.

Conducting research was interesting because I would look at a photo or website and it would take me down a long rabbit hole of new information. I had to overlook much of the basic facts that are found with a quick google search. Historical Context was found by researching the individual weapons used in WWI and learning how it affected the soldiers. I also had to look at the medical treatments used at the time to get a better idea of the impact Gillies had on the soldiers. When learning about Gillies' work, I was lucky in the fact that Gillies meticulously journaled and recorded his work. His published books provided me with photos, diagrams and his thought processes when he was working. This was highly beneficial in getting a better understanding of how he conducted his surgeries. I made sure to add quotes from and about Gillies by people who knew him first hand to help viewers get to know him better, and provide a more humanistic perspective to him. Finally, I added many newspaper articles, but my

personal favorite was his obituary. This really shows his legacy and what people actually thought of him, not only as a surgeon, but as a person.

I've never made a website before so it required a major learning curve. At first I really struggled with using the applications, but once I found the flex box it changed everything. I was able to format everything the way I wanted to, plus make everything look pleasing to the eye. I also researched a lot in advance and accumulated many of the pictures and information which made adding everything together much easier.

Harold Gillies' work had a significant impact on the field of plastic surgery and the lives of veterans. Before Gillies, reconstructive surgery was very primitive and not the focus for surgeons. Due to the severity of injuries from WWI, many soldiers were ashamed to go home with their battle wounds and face the public scrutiny. Gillies stepped up to help aid these soldiers and repair their face, hands, ears, etc. back to a mostly functional state. Reconstructive surgery is a crucial part of medicine today, and it has helped thousands of people be able to successfully overcome the struggles of debilitating injuries.