

PRACTICE RESOURCE



BOTANY DOWNS
Secondary College

Level 1 History

91003 (1.3): Interpret sources of an historical event of significance to New Zealanders

Credits: Four

RESOURCE BOOKLET

Refer to this booklet to answer the question for History 91003 (1.3).

Check that this booklet has pages 2–11 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

INTRODUCTION

New Zealand goes to War 1914-1918

The Gallipoli campaign and the birth of the Anzac legend have captured the imagination of generations of New Zealanders. But it is on the killing fields of the Western Front that most New Zealanders saw action and where most of them died – 12,500 in total. Since 1917 Passchendaele has been a byword for the horror of the Great War. The name conjures images of a shattered landscape of mud, shell craters and barbed wire, and of helpless soldiers mown down by machine-guns and artillery. The capture of the Belgian village of Passchendaele (Passendale), near Ypres (Ieper) in Flanders, became an objective that cost the lives of thousands of people, including many New Zealanders. The ridge leading to the village was the site of the worst disaster, in terms of lives lost, in New Zealand's history since 1840.¹

¹ 'New Zealand goes to war - First World War overview', URL: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/new-zealand-goes-to-war-first-world-war>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 3-May-2010

RESOURCE A: BELGIAN BATTLE SCENE

George Edmund Butler's painting *Zonnebeke* (completed about 1918) captures the devastated Belgian landscape in the aftermath of the great battles of 1917. Zonnebeke is just to the south-west of [Passchendaele](#), where the New Zealanders fought in October 1917, and just north of [Polderhoek](#), where they saw action two months later.²

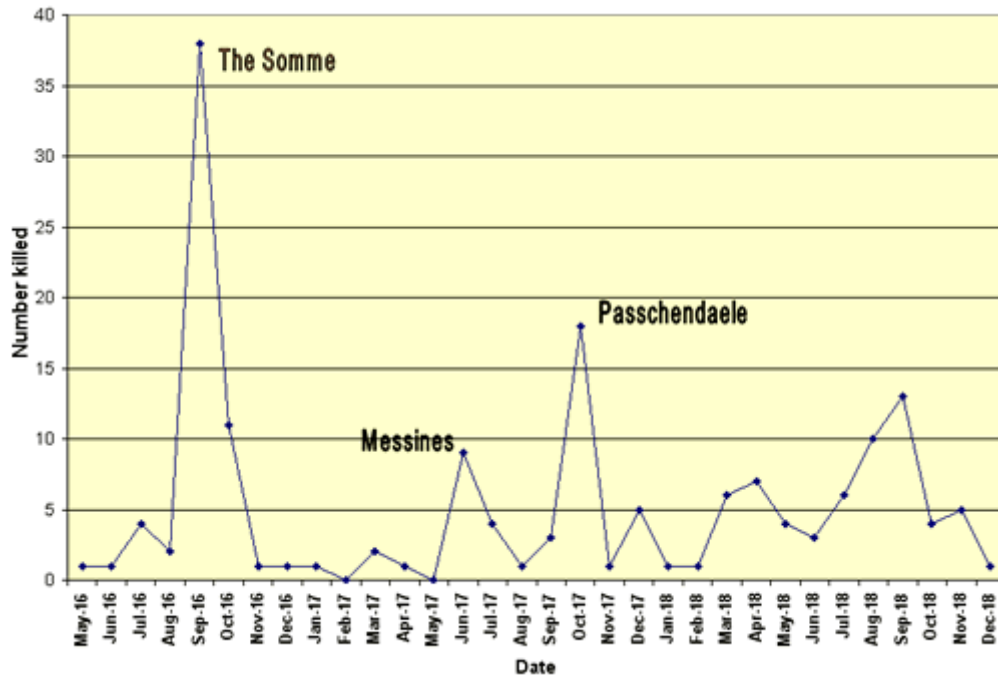
² 'Belgian battle scene', URL: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/zonnebeke-belgium>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 29-Oct-2008

RESOURCE B: PASSCHENDAELE MEMORIAL LOCOMOTIVE

IN 1925 THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, GORDON COATES, AGREED TO A PROPOSAL TO NAME A STEAM LOCOMOTIVE 'IN MEMORY OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR'. MORE THAN 5000 RAILWAYMEN SERVED OVERSEAS BETWEEN 1914 AND 1918 (OUT OF A TOTAL WORKFORCE OF 14,000), AND 447 WERE KILLED. AFTER CONSIDERING THE NAMES SOMME, LE QUESNOY AND YPRES, COATES CHOSE [PASSCHENDAELE](http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/memorial-train).³

³ 'Passchendaele memorial locomotive', URL: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/memorial-train>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 26-Mar-2010

RESOURCE C: WELLINGTON COLLEGE WWI



During the First World War 1643 Wellington College old boys served overseas. From this number, 222 died and a further 350 were wounded. Some, such as the highly decorated [Oscar Gallie](#), appear on the college's list of the glorious dead. His brother Victor was also highly decorated. He died in 1929 from wounds received during the war so did not make it onto the roll.

Among the 845 New Zealanders killed at Bellevue Spur, [Passchendaele](#), on 12 October 1917 were five old boys from Wellington College. By the end of that terrible month, 18 former pupils had lost their lives in the Belgian mud. These numbers may not seem great in the overall context of this battle, but the death of these young men had an enormous impact on a relatively small school.⁴

⁴ 'Wellington College old boys killed on the Western Front', URL: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/wellington-college-old-boys-killed-on-the-western-front>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 28-Jan-2011

RESOURCE D: THE HUMAN STORY

For the men in the trenches, Passchendaele was a living nightmare, but the impact of war reached far beyond those serving at the front line in Belgium. Many New Zealand families, communities, workplaces, schools and clubs were affected in a very direct way. Throughout the war, communities and patriotic organisations worked together to raise funds for Belgian war refugees and provide comforts for New Zealand soldiers at the front line.

In the years following 1917, New Zealanders remembered the sacrifice of Passchendaele and other battles in a variety of ways. Many returned servicemen suffered in silence, wracked by nightmares and lingering wounds. Families mourned lost loved ones in private and through public rituals.⁵

Almost 60% of the 100,000 New Zealanders who went to war became casualties. More than 18,000 died of wounds or disease – 12,483 of them in France and Belgium. From a population of little more than a million people in 1914, this meant that about one in four New Zealand men between the ages of 20 and 45 was either killed or wounded. The impact of war, though, reached far beyond the individuals involved; most New Zealand families, communities, workplaces, schools and clubs were affected in a very direct way.⁶

⁵ 'Passchendaele: fighting for Belgium', URL: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/passchendaele-the-battle-for-belgium>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 17-Jun-2010

⁶ 'The human impact - Passchendaele', URL: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/new-zealanders-in-belgium/soldiers-stories>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 23-Oct-2007

RESOURCE E: ONE FAMILY'S SACRIFICE

Surname	Rank	Service Number	Date Of Death	Age	Regiment/Service	Nationality	Cemetery/Memorial Name
NEWLOVE, EDWIN	Private	40234	12/10/1917	Unknown	Canterbury Regiment, N.Z.E.F.	New Zealand	TYNE COT MEMORIAL
NEWLOVE, LEONARD CHARLES	Private	33755	04/10/1917	Unknown	Auckland Regiment, N.Z.E.F.	New Zealand	TYNE COT MEMORIAL
NEWLOVE, LESLIE MALCOLM	Private	31530	12/10/1917	Unknown	Canterbury Regiment, N.Z.E.F.	New Zealand	TYNE COT MEMORIAL

Many New Zealand families suffered multiple tragedies at Passchendaele. The 1176 names on the Memorial to the Missing at Tyne Cot Cemetery, where most of the New Zealand dead from the Passchendaele attacks are commemorated, include at least five sets of two brothers. One family's sacrifice was even greater: three Newlove brothers – Charles (aged 41), Edwin (32) and Leslie (22) – were killed in little over a week.

From Takaka, the brothers were part of a family of eight boys. Of the three, only Leslie had married, a month before he embarked. Enlisting in 1916, they had all joined their battalions in France by July 1917. Charles served in the 3rd Auckland Battalion and his brothers in the 2nd Canterbury Battalion.⁷

⁷ 'The Newlove family', URL: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/newlove>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 6-Oct-2008

RESOURCE F: STANLEY HERBERT REMEMBERS PASSCHENDAELE

Stanley Frederick Herbert was born in Herbertville in the Tararua district in 1895. He was a farmer when he sailed to war with the New Zealand Rifle Brigade. He served in France and Belgium and was wounded at Messines.

On lice

Everybody had lice - the civilians. We used to sleep in stables or the trenches. Everybody had body lice. And they didn't affect me but a lot of people they did, and when we went for a bath for or of a night if we were sitting fire at night we'd get a poker and we'd get it quite hot and we'd run it down the seams and you'd hear them go click, click, click.

On daily life and food

You had no soap. We never washed. Our knife and fork and spoon you dug it into the earth and then wiped the dirt off it, just clean any grease that might be on it. Bully beef in tins, that's what we were living on and you'd put the tea in the lid and the stew that was stewed up in the other part, and when you'd finished it you cleaned it as well as you could and put it on your belt and waited for the next meal. When we were in the front line we used to get a piece of bread and that was our food for the 24 hours while we were there. And then we had dixies, we used go back and get tea, of a sort. And of course you couldn't drink any of the water without it was tested because everything was poisoned before we got there.

On rats

The rats – the first night I went into Passchendaele I forgot to put my food in the haversack, the small haversack I had and you put it under head – and the rats got it and the rats ran across my face.⁸

⁸ 'Stanley Herbert remembers Passchendaele', URL: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/sound/stanley-herbert-remembers-passchendaele>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 11-Oct-2007

RESOURCE G: PLAYING CARDS NEAR THE WESTERN FRONT LINE

Members of the New Zealand Rifles enjoy a game of cards in a camp close behind the lines. As packs of cards, dice and coins were easy to carry, games of chance involving these simple items were among the most popular forms of amusement.⁹

⁹ 'Playing cards near the Western Front line', URL: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/playing-cards-near-the-line>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 27-Sep-2007

RESOURCE H: READING THE CASUALTY LISTS



On 27 July 1916 the *Auckland Weekly News* had on its cover a photograph captioned 'The Casualty List'.

The publication of death notices in local newspapers – often with heavy black lines around the entry and a banner reading 'For the Empire's Cause' – informed the wider community of a family's loss. Almost every newspaper in New Zealand also published the Roll of Honour, widening the community of mourning to the nation.¹⁰

¹⁰ 'Reading the casualty list', URL: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/reading-the-casualty-list-first-world-war>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 24-Sep-2008

RESOURCE I: FUNDRAISING IN NEW ZEALAND FOR BELGIUM



Members of the Otago Women's Patriotic Association are photographed at one of their many fund-raising events for Belgium.

An appeal to the women of New Zealand

'At this moment of our Empire's needs I appeal to the women of New Zealand to assist me in trying to provide any necessities which may be required for ... the citizen army ... My suggestion would be to start a fund in every centre under a small committee of ladies'.

Annette, Lady Liverpool (whose husband was New Zealand's governor), made this plea just one day after the outbreak of war in August 1914. She urged women to provide useful items for soldiers: shirts, underclothing, socks and darning kits (known as housewives).

Women across the country immediately took up her call. The next day, a 'little band' of Wellington women had made 250 housewives, sewing into them 'all sorts of hopes and fears', according to the *Evening Post*. Within days, over 800 women attended a public meeting in Dunedin – the largest in the city to that date – to form the Otago and Southland Women's Patriotic Association.

More than 900 women's patriotic organisations operated during the war. Women made a huge contribution to New Zealand's war effort through these groups, and they took a lead role in supplying material to people in war-torn Belgium and France. By the end of the war, women's groups had raised nearly £5 million.

RESOURCE J: WOUNDED

'It is terrible to see these men wounded in the head — numbers of them become paralysed and quite a number were minus arms and legs or eyes. For the first few days they were quite silly — lost their reasons and some speechless. Oh, it was ghastly and desperately busy — we just went on and on doing dressings no hope of finishing ... Crowds died of course'.

Elsie Grey, New Zealand Army Nursing Service, in Anna Rogers, *While you're away: New Zealand nurses at war 1899–1948*, 2003¹¹

¹¹ 'Helping the wounded - Passchendaele', URL: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/new-zealanders-in-belgium/helping-wounded>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage), updated 9-Oct-2007