

Think Like a Historian:

THE LAST

100

DAYS

WORKSHEETS

...LIES FURTHER
...WIDEN WEDGE IN
...FOE BATTLE LINE

...ADIANS IN
...ENBURG LINE

CAMBRAI TAKEN
BY CANADIANS
HUN ARMIES ARE
IN FULL FLIGHT

...reat War
...Ended At
...m. Today

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN: THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS

Activity #1 Worksheet

Use this worksheet to support Activity 1 of *Think Like a Historian: The Last Hundred Days* Education Guide.

In small groups, select one of the following significant First World War events, people, or developments. Gather evidence about its historical significance and record it on the Historical Significance Criteria chart.

1. [Battle of Vimy Ridge](#)
2. [Battle of Passchendaele](#)
3. [Battle of Beaumont-Hamel](#)
4. [Battle for Hill 70](#)
5. [Battle of the Somme](#)
6. [Battle of Courcelette](#)
7. [Second Battle of Ypres](#)
8. [Nursing Sisters](#)
9. [Canadian Expeditionary Force](#)
10. [Canadian Command during the Great War](#)
11. [Evolution of Canada's Shock Troops](#)
12. [The Canadian Great War Soldier](#)
13. [Francis Pegahmagabow](#)
14. [John McCrae](#)
15. [Billy Bishop](#)
16. [Robert Borden](#)
17. [Union Government](#)
18. [Halifax Explosion](#)
19. [Women's Suffrage](#)
20. [Victory Loans](#)
21. [War Measures Act](#)
22. [Military Service Act](#)
23. [Conscription](#)
24. [Wartime Elections Act](#)
25. [Canadian Women and War](#)
26. [Internment](#)
27. [Canadian Children and the Great War](#)
28. [Henri Bourassa](#)
29. [Wilfrid Laurier](#)
30. [Arthur Currie](#)

Historical Significance Criteria Chart

<p>Prominence: Was the person or event recognized as significant at the time? How so?</p>	
<p>Consequences: What effect(s) did the person or event have?</p>	
<p>Impact: How widespread was the person or event's impact? How long-lasting were the effects?</p>	
<p>Revealing: What does the person or event reveal about the larger historical context or present-day issues? Does it inform our understanding of a historical issue or period?</p>	



German trenches demolished by artillery, showing German dead. July 1916 (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/PA-000128).



A Canadian Patrol going forward during the Battle of Valenciennes. November 1918 (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/PA-003379).



One of our guns stuck in the mud. Battle of Passchendaele. November 1917 (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/PA-002137).



Tanks advancing down Amiens-Roye Road. Battle of Amiens. August 1918 (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/PA-002946).



German prisoners doing stretcher work on Somme, November 1916 (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/PA-001039).



Tanks advancing. Prisoners bring in wounded wearing gas masks. Battle of Amiens. August 1918 (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/PA-002951).



Personnel of the 16th Canadian Machine Gun Company holding the line in shell holes during the Battle of Passchendaele. November 1917 (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/PA-002162).



Canadians passing through ruined Church in Cambrai. Advance east of Arras. 9 Oct. 1918 (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/PA-003286).



Pack horses transporting ammunition to the 20th Battery, Canadian Field Artillery. April 1917 (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/PA-001231).



Canadians and their supply wagons crossing a railway in the dry bed of the Canal du Nord. Advance East of Arras. September 1918 (courtesy Library and Archives Canada/PA-003285).

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN: THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS

Activity #4 Worksheet

Use this worksheet to support Activity 4 of *Think Like a Historian: The Last Hundred Days* Education Guide.

Read the selected ten excerpts from Claudius Corneloup's *Epic of the 22nd Battalion* as a basis for the exercises in Activity 4.

Teacher Tip: These excerpts are written at a high reading level. You may want to read and unpack them with your class.

Click [here](#) to read the entirety of Corneloup's book from Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. Note that it is available only in French.

1. "It's not scholarly work that I offer to the readers who are interested in the 22nd Battalion (French-Canadian). Departing from all literary etiquette and banishing the style and lies of art, as well as all its artifices, neglecting the fake embellishment of great truths, I sought to free myself from adhering to these tragic events, always human, and to turn them into a simple composition of emotions rather than a work of science, written as my pen went, haphazardly, from one day to the next, appropriately, to offer to the humble, the grandfathers, the mothers, the women, the betrothed and the children of our soldiers who died for their country." (p.7)

2. "I wrote these pages for all of those who suffered, lived and cried in the trenches; I wrote for all the wounded that generously gave their blood, for all the friends and parents of the fallen; I wrote for those who dressed our wounds, who helped us, and for the holy souls who prayed for us." (p.7)

3. "A Battalion may go unnoticed; a Brigade attracts attention. In this movement of troops, there wasn't just a division, but the entire Canadians Corps [...]"

The excitement was extraordinary. On the roads and in the fields, Battalions were following Battalions; cavalry was massed along the wooded slopes; at the pawing and neighing of the horses, the heavy artillery, installed on powerful tractors, squeaked in the ruts; the tanks were rushing in, dull, muffled masses, roaring quietly; and, even further away, colourless spots, earth coloured, grouped in a heaving expanse, overflowing with men and supplies, buried in the twilight." (p.125)

4. "Our turn came at ten forty-five. In artillery formation, the soldiers of the 22nd passed over the 18th Battalion. The village was overrun. At that point, a German plane flew above us and signalled our presence with two flares. The instant became critical. We were bombarded with ten shells per second. We ran forward. A new threat. The German gunners, hidden behind trees and bushes, were offering a fierce resistance; they retreated methodically, causing losses as they went.

The tanks kept relentlessly at their task of destruction, sowing a diabolical terror. The advanced and returned, skirting around the enemy's positions, crushing them or forcing them to run, constantly followed by the phalanxes of Courcellette, Ypres, Vimy, Lens and Passchendaele, in unending lines." (p.128)

5. "The field [at Arras] was plowed between the two lines to such an extent that it looked like the beaten fields at Vimy. [...]"

Of the fringes of the two armies observing each other in the dark, ours had all the disadvantages. Sunken in a crypt, paralyzed, it seemed touched by some frightful darkness. Stuck and driven into marshy fields of an untrustworthy consistency, plowed by innumerable ruts with muddy landslides and subjected to rigorous observation, the army couldn't move without being noticed. The other, on the contrary, was solidly raised on a plateau fed by a profusion of roads that facilitated the transport of supplies, reinforcement, and, if needed, retreat. The other, the enemy army, was watching its prey, amassing its machine guns, marching its light 37 caliber canons. The army, feeling defeated, knows that soon enough it will have to abandon its hiding place, will have to flee, flee, distraught [...] Retreating, yes, but inch by inch, defended fiercely." (p.138)

6. “[At the Battle of la Scarpe] Colonel Dubuc fell while leading his men; Major Vanier lost a leg; Majors Routier, Roy and Archambault, Captain Morgan, Lieutenants Lamothe and Lemieux; here’s the list of decorated men who were extinguished, all the glory of the past blazes in a bloody apotheosis. Captain Morgan, despite numerous desperate efforts, stayed in that miserable no man’s land for thirty-six hours.

Of the 22 officers that took part in this Homeric battle, not a single one was spared. Of the 600 shock troops, only 70 were able to muster. The conquered position was maintained. [...]

And behind the lines, amongst the legions of the dead, inarticulate sounds rose to the heavens: souls in distress pleading for help; broken hearts abandoning the path of life; broken bodies who had suffered too much in this skin [...]

When, at night, silence came again, a soft lament like the singing of a psalm flew up to the shining stars. It was a living painting, sublime, where all of war’s poetry reached its purest form: 300 of our wounded were dreaming, asleep in a bed of dew.” (p.139)

7. “The 22nd was sent to Croisilles, then to Fontaines and to Quéant, on the Hindenburg line. Subjected to the violence of aerial and long-range bombing, the 22nd kept going. Step by step, forced marches through this country covered in barbed wire, in torrential rains, through the mud and the holes, they followed the never-ending Canadian advances as a reserve force, waiting for back-up. Six hundred conscripts arrived. They are all full of good will. They are strong and vivacious young men. But they know nothing of war.

We might have thought there would be a silent hostility between the volunteers and the conscripts. The tragic events that took place in Québec, having resonated all over the world, had touched our prestige and tarnished our glory. But it was not the case. We forgot. We made them understand that it was not only in the interest of France and England that they had been called, but for Canada as well. The world could never have been at peace with the power of German militarism. We needed to crush it, to annihilate it, so that the world could be happily at home, soaking up the sun.” (p.141)

8. “More than four years have passed, and during those four years, the 22nd has grown a hundredfold, rising higher than the sublime and preserving the purest of military glories. During those four years, throughout the violence of the battles, it never ceded any ground, never retreated an inch.”

After Kemmel, Saint-Éloi, Zillebecke, Ypres, Courcellette, Régina, Angres, Neuville St Waast, Vimy, Lens, Passchendaele, Mercatel, Neuville-Vitasse, Amiens and the Somme, Chilly, Cherisy, Cambrai, Valenciennes and the thundering attacks of the Hainaut province, after the capture of Mons by Canadians troops on November 11, the very day of the armistice, after so much fighting and so many sacrifices done at these historic places, the famous Battalion, uniting its cry of joy with the peaceful hallelujah sung by an entire universe, reached the banks of the Rhine, moved by the noble sentiments of magnanimous victory.” (p.146)

9. “We talked about the 22nd a lot. We will always keep on talking about it: its accomplishments are eternal; it is an epic poem from prologue to epilogue, but the marvels written therein will never match the sublimity of their actions.” (p.149)

10. “Forward, always forward, we march, guided by the star of impending peace and pushed by an invisible force. In the chaos of the hordes, the confusions and the entangled corpses, among the destroyed lands from which thousands of scattered objects emerge, along the canals swollen by the recent rains, under the breaches slashed by cannon fire, under the wrath of hail, under bursts of fire, under gunfire, we march, leaving behind us our dead and wounded.” (p.143-144)

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN: THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS

Continued

Use this worksheet to support the 5Ws exercise in Activity 4 of *Think Like a Historian: The Last Hundred Days* Education Guide.

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<p>WHAT?</p> <p>What kind of document is it?</p>	
<p>WHO?</p> <p>Who is the author/ creator of the document? What can you infer about the author from the excerpts?</p>	
<p>WHEN AND WHERE?</p> <p>When and where was it written?</p>	
<p>WHY?</p> <p>Why was the document written/ created? Who was the intended audience?</p>	

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN: THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS

Use this worksheet to support the Reaching Conclusions exercise in Activity 4 of *Think Like a Historian: The Last Hundred Days* Education Guide.

Based on evidence from Corneloup's account, develop conclusions about his thoughts, feelings, and values as well as the experiences of French-Canadian soldiers in the 22nd Battalion during the Last Hundred Days.

.....

	Evidence	Conclusions
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN: THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS

Use this worksheet to support the Finding Proof exercise in Activity 4 of *Think Like a Historian: The Last Hundred Days* Education Guide.

In pairs, compare Corneloup's account with a letter written by Armand Thérien, a soldier in the 22nd Battalion (below). Identify the similarities and differences in Corneloup's account of the Last Hundred Days with Thérien's letter and record them in the chart.



Point of comparison	Similarities	Differences
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

August 26, 1918

At 3 am, we move towards our attack position as indicated by our officers. Following them, we exit the trenches at the gates of Arras, and we move toward a small railroad situated approximately 800 yards north of Arras. We end up about 500 yards from the Germans, and silence is necessary, as the smallest of noises could expose our attack plan. Every so often a German or Allied shell flies over our heads, whistling, trying to hit the other's artillery. All is silent; we are divided by sections... and by wave (of assault): we only hear the short, muffled voice of the Captain giving his orders; then a plane flies over, breaking the silence with the noise of its motor. Not a single gun shot: the fritzts [Germans] are not expecting an offensive.

The Captain hands out the rum. We wait for the signal; ten more minutes. We speak softly, share our thoughts.

An old French-Canadian soldier beside me tells me: "It's your first attack, that's why you are so cheerful; but I've seen many others, I know what it is." And he keeps going: "If you are wounded, throw your gun, your equipment, keep only your metal helmet and your gas mask, and go to the back; but don't get caught in the barrage fire, cause then you're dead." I don't know what it is, but I feel gay, brave; I hate the Germans and I want to kill them all (the effects of the rum).

"2 minutes," says the Captain. "We advance by 100 yards every 4 minutes, in a diagonal to the right." "Cheer up, boys, either we take our objective, or we die."

3 o'clock. A flare. 2 seconds. The barrage fire starts. Terrible bombardment. The Germans hesitate a minute, then start their own barrage fire. It's unbelievable. This is nothing but a beat, a lightning; 4 minutes. We move forward; 10 men fall around me, killed by our own artillery. What is happening? A mistake with the calculations? I don't know. Another type of flare. We are told to keep firing.

We march on. Shells explode all around us, over our heads; the bullets whistle in our ears. Men fall. Fear takes me; I want to be wounded, but I'm afraid of it; I'm scared, because I can't believe what is happening. You have to see it to understand it because it is unspeakable.

We move forward, in pain and suffering, getting stuck in the barbed wire, jumping in shell holes, etc., when (Lieutenant) Gendron, in charge of our wave, gives us the signal to stop because we are moving too fast. We stand by, and then get the signal to keep going. This action takes my fear away; I light myself a cigarette, too, and keep moving, Thérien! ...

... That's where I am buried; a shell explodes five steps from me; I fall on my stomach and faint; and when I come to, my face and arms are exposed, my equipment has been removed and I feel in my neck an excruciating pain; who dug me up? I found out later it was my old friend, killed as he did that for me.

I get up. I'm dizzy. I touch my neck and feel a warmth I think is blood. I can go to the back, I fall; it starts raining again, I walk a few steps, fall in the barbed wire. I don't even know where the front is. I only hear one noise. I only see one light. I finally fall in a shell hole and, despite the noise of the canon, I am so tired that I fall asleep.

I don't know how long I slept. I touch my wound. It's only a bump. It's dawn; it's still raining. I stumble on the dead, I hear the moans of the wounded. I trip on another body. It's my Captain, with a bullet wound in each leg. I dress his wound. He sees the state I'm in and gives me another shot of rum. I see in the distance a group of our support men. I join them, I report to the [Lieutenant]. ...

The [Lieutenant] keeps me with him. We empty the dug-outs, we kill about 30 Germans and take 84 prisoners. A section of my Regiment moves forward, I join them and arrive with them at Monchy; our objective. Nice little village surrounded by trenches...

Armand Thérien

Armand Thérien,
22nd Battalion (French-Canadian)

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN: THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS

Activity #5 Worksheet:

Use this worksheet to support Activity 5 of *Think Like a Historian: The Last Hundred Days* Education Guide.

Read the selected excerpts from William Metcalf's Personnel Record as a basis for the exercises in Activity 5.

Click [here](#) to read William Metcalf's full Personnel Record from Library and Archives Canada.

1) HOSPITAL/HEALTH RECORDS

Princess Patricia Canadian Red Cross Hospital,
Corden Camp, Bexhill, HOSPITAL. 72604
D.M.S. 1317

Reg. No. _____
A. & D. No. 22614 Ward Div. 1
Unit 16th Bu Can Sig Sick or Wounded. .
Regtl. No. _____ Pl. of Act'n Avras
Rank S/Cpl. Name Metcalf W. A.
Age 20 Religion CofE.
Service Compl'd 50/12 Time with Field Force 42/12
Diagnosis G.W. Ankle (R)
Admitted 10-10-18 was hosp. Discharged 9-11-19 Res. Bu. Seaford
DISCHARGED TO DUTY.
Transferred _____
RECORD FURTHER REMARKS ON BACK. Caba

Regimental Number

Division

Battalion

Canada/Canadian

Place of Action

**Princess Patricia Canadian Red Cross Hospital
Cooden Camp, Bexhill Hospital**

T2604
D.M.S. 1317

Reg. No. 22614

Ward Div. 1

Unit 16th Bn Can

Sig Sick or Wounded.

Regtl. No. -----

Pl. of Act'n Arras

Rank L/Cpl

Name Metcalf W.H.

Age 20

Religion C of E

Service Compl'd 50/12

Time with Field Force 42/12

Diagnosis GSW Ankle (R)

Admitted 10-12-18 War Hospital Reading

Discharged 4-4-19 To 11th Res. Bn. Seaford
DISCHARGED TO DUTY

Transferred _____

RECORD FURTHER REMARKS ON BACK

Cat. A

Lance Corporal

Church of England/Anglican

Completed

Gun Shot Wound

Reading is a city in England where hospital was located

Reserve Battalion

ORIGINAL

22614

W. Moor
Beakill
T. 22614

to be used for men of the Territorial Force when they are admitted to Hospitals. Army Form B. 178 to be used for Special Reserve and Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

MEDICAL HISTORY SHEET

SURNAME *Mitcalf*
 EXAMINED ON *26 Aug*
 BIRTHPLACE TOWN *Uxbridge*
 APPARENT AGE *20*
 TRADE OR OCCUPATION *Barber*
 HEIGHT *5* FEET *7* INCHES
 CHEST *35* MINIMUM *2* MAXIMUM
 PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT *Good*
 WHEN VACCINATED LAST *1912*
Innoculated Aug 26/14
Syft 11/14

CHRISTIAN NAME *William H.*
 AT *Valcartier* APPVD. BY.
 COUNTY *Maine*
A. H. Sutherland
Capt. W. M. G.

9 SEP 1914

10.10.18 2010 ops.
10.12.18 Ft. Jackson
1-4-19 A Hayer Capt

ENLISTED AT *Instruction AB* ON *Aug 15/14*
 AT
 JOINED ON ENLISTMENT *71st Regt*
 TRANSFERRED TO *12th Battalion 22614* ✓
16
23 Sep. **VALCARTIER.**

EXAMINED OR DISCHARGED BY A MEDICAL BOARD.

No 22614

Entries in Red Ink made from Attestation Sheets

JUL 16 1915

P. M. Shaw
for D. D. M. S.

CANADIAN

Nelson
Bexhill

ORIGINAL

22614

T523 K/C -- MEDICAL HISTORY SHEET --

SURNAME Metcalf CHRISTIAN NAME William H.

EXAMINED ON 26 Aug AT Valcartier APPVD. BY.

BIRTHPLACE ----- TOWN Waite COUNTY Maine R.H. Sutherland

APPARENT AGE 20 Capt AMC

TRADE OR OCCUPATION Barber

HEIGHT 5 FEET 7 INCHES

CHEST 35 MINIMUM 2 MAXIMUM 9 SEP 1918

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT Good

WHEN VACCINATED LAST 1912

Innoculated Aug 26/14 10.10.18 SAB

Sept 11/14 2

10.12.18 A [illegible]

1-4-19 A [illegible] Capt

ENLISTED AT Fredericton N.B. ON Aug 15/14
AT

JOINED ON ENLISTMENT 71st Regt

TRANSFERRED TO 12th Battalion 22614
16 "

23 Sept VALCARTIER

EXAMINED OR DISCHARGED BY A MEDICAL BOARD. Canadian

No. 22614

Entries in Red Ink made from
Attestation Sheets

____ R.M. Shaw ____
for D.D.M.S

JUL 16 1915

Approved

Captain

Army Medical Centre

New Brunswick

Regiment

Deputy Director of Medical Services

MEDICAL EXAMINATION UPON LEAVING THE SERVICE OF OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS WHO HAVE NO DISABILITY.

Officers and Other Ranks leaving the service for reasons other than medical unfitness are to be reported on this form. Where there is evidence of any undetermined or progressive disability, this form will not be used, but the case will be referred to a Medical Board for completion of M.F.B. 227.

No. 22614 Rank Corporal Surname Metcalf
(Given name in full)
William H
Unit or Corps 18th Res. Birthplace Waite Maine

(Examination of Officer or Other Rank (Stripped) to be made by one Medical Officer.)

1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Good

Physique Good Weight 154 lbs. Height 5 ft 7 " in Colour of Eyes Brown

Nutrition Good

Pulse 80

Condition of Arteries Good

Vision Rt. 6/6 Left 6/6

Hearing (Conversational voice) Rt. 2 ft.
Left 2 ft

Opinion as to general health and physical condition Good

Identification marks, scars, or deformities.
(Give cause and date of origin.)

[illegible] bullet wound above R ankle

(GSW. France Sept /18)

2. Has Officer or Other Rank ever suffered from, or has he now, any affection of the following systems?
(Answer "Yes" or "No"). (Subjective evidence may be sufficient in certain cases.)

Nervous System No Genito Urinary System No Cardio-Vascular System No
Special Senses No Integumentary System No Respiratory System No
Disturbance of mentality No Muscular System No Digestive System No
Osseous and Joint System No Any other general condition No

3. If the answer to any part of Section 2 above is "Yes," here give full particulars, with cause and date of origin; and also a description of the present condition.

G.S.W. R. leg – Good recovery.
Sep /18

Right

Gun Shot Wound

2) CASUALTY AND SERVICE FILES

For information on how to read a Service Record or Casualty Form, visit: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/Pages/read-service-record-casualty-form.aspx>

Rank and Name *404* WESTCALF W.H. *35987.*
 Regimental No. 22614 Name and Address of Next-of-kin *Mrs. Thursa Rice, Dennyville.*
 Unit 12th. Battalion. *22819*
 Date of enlistment 23rd. Sept. 1914.
 Place of birth U.S.A. U.S.A.
 Married (Yes or No) No. Date and place of discharge
 If in Permanent Force Reason for discharge
 Character on discharge
 Promotions or appointments

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service. The authority to be quoted in each case	Place	Date	REMARKS Taken from Official Documents
Date	From whom received				
<i>18/5/15</i>	<i>O.C. 12th Bn.</i>	<i>Trans to 16th Bn. Embarked.</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>18/5/15</i>	<i>Part II orders</i>
<i>19.7.15</i>	<i>W.O.</i>	<i>Returned to duty, from Base.</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>7.7.15</i>	<i>Bas report #108</i>
<i>29.1.16</i>	<i>7th Bn</i>	<i>Granted 7 Days leave</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>21.1.16</i>	<i>Part II O.S.</i>
<i>13th /16.</i>	<i>do.</i>	<i>Applied Ac/Inf/Inf (with pay)</i>	<i>The Field</i>	<i>12/1/16.</i>	<i>do # 67.</i>
<i>10.8.17</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>Awarded Military Medal for Bravery in Field</i>	<i>" "</i>		<i>Part II O.S. 15</i>
<i>2095 (gr)</i>	<i>G.I. 16</i>	<i>Military Medal. (6/12)</i>			<i>2929893 d 6/17</i>
<i>13-2-18</i>	<i>16th Bn</i>	<i>Confirmed in rank of Lt Col.</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>12.9.16</i>	<i>Part II O.S.</i>
<i>14.9.18</i>	<i>M.R.D</i>	<i>T.O.S. joining from 16th Bn</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>7.9.18</i>	<i>--- 257 3rd Bn 4.7.18</i>
<i>11.9.18</i>	<i>16th Bn</i>	<i>Wounded</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>14.9.18</i>	<i>NA 3847-22</i>
<i>11.12.18</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>Awarded Victoria Cross</i>	<i>467</i>	<i>---</i>	<i>3rd Bn 1000</i>
<i>16.4.19</i>	<i>18th Bn</i>	<i>T.O.S. from M.R.D</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>15.4.19</i>	<i>--- 106 1st Bn 1000</i>

35987

Rank and Name METCALF W.H.
Regimental No. 22614
Unit 12th. Battalion.
Date of enlistment 23rd. Sept. 1914
Place of birth U.S.A.
Married (Yes or No) No.
If in Permanent Force

Name and Address of Next-of-kin
Mrs. Thursa Rice.
Dennysville.
U.S.A
Date and place of discharge
Reason for discharge
Character on discharge

Copied Archives
Copié

22819
C.F. Can

Promotions or appointments

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc. during active service. The authority to be quoted in each case	Place	Date	REMARKS Taken from Official Documents
Date:	From whom received				
13/5/15	O.C. 12 th Bn	Trans to 16th Batt. + Embarked		13/5/15	Part II Orders
19.7.15	W.O.	Returned to Duty, from	Base	7.7.15	Cas report #108 (2)
29.1.16	o/c 16 th	Granted 7 Days leave	Field	21.1.16	Part II O. 5.
13/10/16	do.	Appl'd Act L/Cpl (with pay)	The Field	12 9/16	do. #57
10.2.17	"	Awarded Military Medal for Bravery in Field	" "		Part II OII 15
2085 (241)	C.S. (I)	Military Medal (16 th Bn)			L.G. 29893 d 6/1/17
13-2-18	16 th Bn	Confirmed in rank of L/Cpl.	Field	12-9-16	Part II O. 11.
14.9.18	M.R.D.	T.O.S. Pooling from 16th B	L/Cpl Seaford	7.9.18	--- "---- 25 / 16 th B BnD 098 L/1
11.9.18	16 th Bn	Wounded	L/Cpl Field		H A 3849 - 22 Bn DO 139 MRD 16-p 00 99
4.12.18	----"----	Awarded Victoria Cross	L/Cpl ----"----	4 9 18	
	18 th Res.	T.O.S from M.R.D	" Seaford	15.4.19	---"---- 106 Lanc MRDBnDO125 d/s 549

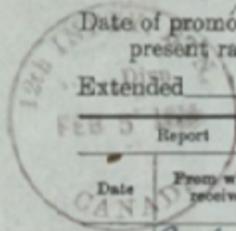
Officer Commanding
Battalion
Casualty
Ditto

Applied [to be] Acting Lance Corporal
Commandant Staff
London Gazette
Taken on Strength
Battalion
Manitoba Regimental Depot

*Capt Barrett
K.I. 101/Inf/16/10*

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps 1st Bn. The Buffs
 Regimental No. 22694 Rank Plt Name McKeay, W.H.
 Enlisted (a) 23/8/14 Terms of Service (a) _____ Service reckons from (a) _____
 Date of promotion to } _____ Date of appointment } _____ Numerical position on } _____
 present rank } _____ to lance rank } _____ roll of N.C.Os. } _____
 Extended _____ Re-engaged _____ Qualification (b) _____



Date	Report	From whom received	Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., during active service, as reported on Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. M. or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place	Date	Remarks taken from Army Form B. 213, Army Form A. 96, or other official documents.
23/5/15	Part 2 Orders		<i>Wounded in France Taken on Strength</i>	16th Bn	24/5/15	No 11 23/5/15
10/7/15	O.C. 16th Bn		Slightly wounded	Returned to duty	7/7/15	K4/7/16 Vol III 10/7/15
21/1/16	O.C. Bn		7 days leave		20.1.16	B213 21.1.16 No 5 29.1.16
29.9.16	O.C.		appears off the field to complete	Field	12.9.16	B213. 57. of 13-10-16
12-1-17	O.C. Bn.		Granted 10 days leave.	"	24-12-16	B213 - RT 2.0 - " 1. 29.1.17
12-1-17	"		Returned	"	6.1.17	B213
6-1-17	London Gazette		Awarded the MILITARY MEDAL for bravery in the Field.			29893-349/350
4.8.17	O.C. Bn.		To 1st Army Signal School		22.7.17	Pt. 11 Orders 15 D/- 12-2-17
15-11-17	"		Rejoined Bn.		2.9.17	Vol. 16/28401
17-11-17	"					
5-1-18	"		GRANTED 14 DAYS LEAVE		30.12.17	Pt. 11 No. 3. d. 1. 9. 18
19-1-18	"		RETURNED FROM LEAVE		16.1.18	B 213
20-1-18	"		Rejoined 18.1.18 for duty			B 213

90 In the case of a man who has re-enlisted, has been enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.
 91 e.g. Signaller, Shoemaker, Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

Officer Commanding

Battalion

Acting Lance Corporal

(8915) – Wt. W4862 – 540. –600,000. – 9-14 – G.A.T.&S., Ltd. Forms B. 103/1. Cert. Correct Army Form B. 103
K.I. 101/Inf/16/10

Casualty Form – Active Service

Regiment or Corps _____

Regimental No. _ 22614 Rank Pte Name Metcalf, W.H.

Enlisted (a) 23/8/14 Terms of Service (a) _____ Service reckons from (a) _____
Date of promotion to } _____ Date of appointment to _____ Numerical position on }
present rank } lance rank } roll of NCOs. }

Copied Archives
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Extended _____ Re-engaged _____ Qualification (b) _____

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc. during active service. The authority to be quoted in each case	Place	Date	REMARKS Taken from Official Documents
Date	From whom received				
23/5/15	Part 2 Orders	Arrived in France + Taken on Strength	16 th Bn	14/5/15	No. 11 23/5/15
10/7/15	O.C. 16 th Bn	Slightly wounded	Returned to duty	7/7/15	K4 7/7/16 VOC III 10/7/15
21/1/16	OC Bn	7 days leave		20.1.16	B213 21/1/16 No. 5 29116 Bn 3 57 dy 13-10-16
29.9.16	OC Bn	Appointed A/L/Cpl to complete	Field	12.9.16	Bn 3
12-1-17.	OC Bn	"	"	6.1.17	29893-349/350 Pt. 11 Orders 15 D/- 10-2-17
12.1.17	"	Returned			
6-1-17	London Gazette				
4.8.17	OC Bn	To [?] Army Signal School		22-7-17	Bn 3
15.11.17	"	Rejoined Unit		2-9-17	K.I. 16/78501
5.1.18	"	GRANTED 14 DAYS LEAVE	U.K	30.12.17	Pt. 11 No. 3d 1918
19.1.18	"	RETURNED FROM LEAVE		16.1.18	B213
25.1.18		Reprimanded 18.1.18 over-staying leave from 6:30 am 14.1.18 to 6:30 am 15.1.18 forfeits 2 days pay by [illegible]			D2069 Pt. II O.8/1918

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or enlisted into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or enlistment will be entered.

(b) e.g., Signaller, Shoeing Smith, etc., etc., also special qualifications in technical Corps duties.

{P.T.O.

Army Council Instruction

Corporal

William

Victoria Cross

Military Medal

Army Form B. 103-II.
PART II

(SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Part II).

Regiment or Corps _____ Regimental Number 22614

*Substantive Rank Cpl Surname Metcalf Christian Names Wm Henry V.C. M.M. +bar

*Acting Rank _____

(* To be entered in pencil to facilitate alterations.)

(A) Report		(B) Authority of Part II. of Orders	(C) Record of promotions, appointments, reductions, casualties, transfers, postings, &c. All acting as well as substantive promotions to be shown, for method of entry of which see A.C.I. 1816 of 1917. Corps and unit to which transferred and posted to be invariably named.	(D) Place of casualty	(E) Date of promotion, reduction, reversion, casualty, &c.	(F) Remarks and initials and rank of an [illegible]
Date	From whom received					
8/5/19	Attached C.D.D. Buxton for return to Canada, Part II Order No. 10/					
24/5/19	Ceases to be attached C.D.D. Buxton on proceeding to Canada, Part II Order No. 20/					
24.5.19	T.O.S. Quebec Depot Clearing Services Command Part 11, Order No. 154 of 3.6.19					
5.6.19	S.O.S. Quebec Depot Clearing Services Command Part 11, Order No. 154 of 3.6.19					
On being discharged DEMOB'N						

**[Illegible] Lock CAPT.
For OFFICER COMMANDING
CANADIAN DISCHARGE DEPOT**

LIEUT
OFFICER IN CHARGE QUEBEC
CLEARING SERVICES COMMAND

Canadian Discharge Depot
Number

Taken on Strength

Struck off Strength

Demobilization

Lieutenant

3) AWARDS

Sheet 2.

Reference item 155.

BAR TO THE MILITARY MEDAL
Authority London Gazette.
#31142 Dated 24-1-1919.

DEED OF ACTION.

Covering the Award of the BAR TO THE MILITARY MEDAL.

"During the attack in front of AMIENS on August 8th, 1918, this N.C.O. behaved in a most splendid manner in charge of a signal section. With extraordinary perseverance and judgement he carried a telephone line forward with the first wave and upon arriving at the final objective, established a signal station which he maintained all day under heavy shell fire. He several times traversed the zone of immediate danger to keep his lines in repair. His fine conduct was responsible for keeping Headquarters in touch with the situation and thus contributing valuable assistance to the success of the action."

Sheet 2.

Reference Item 155.

BAR TO THE MILITARY MEDAL
Authority London Gazette.
#31142 Dated 24-1-1919.

DEED OF ACTION.

Covering the Award of the BAR TO THE MILITARY MEDAL

“During the attack in front of AMIENS on August 8th, 1918, this N.C.O. behaved in a most splendid manner in charge of a signal section. With extraordinary perseverance and judgement he carried a telephone line forward with the first wave and upon arriving at the final objective, established a signal station which he maintained all day under heavy shell fire. He several times traversed the zone of immediate danger to keep his lines in repair. His fine conduct was responsible for keeping Headquarters in touch with the situation and thus contributing valuable assistance to the success of the actions.”

Reference item 155.



#22614 Lance-Corporal METCLAF, William Henry
16th. Battalion, Canadian Infantry.

VICTORIA CROSS.
Authority London Gazette.
#31012 Dated 15-11-18.

DEED OF ACTION.

Covering the Award of the VICTORIA CROSS.

"For most conspicuous bravery, initiative, and devotion to duty in attack, when, the right flank of the Battalion being held up, he realized the situation and rushed forward under intense machine gun fire to a passing Tank on the left. With his signal flag he walked in front of the Tank, directing it along the trench in a perfect hail of bullets and bombs. The machine gun strong points were overcome, very heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and a very critical situation was relieved. Later, although wounded, he continued to advance until ordered to get into a shell-hole and have his wounds dressed. His valour throughout was of the highest standard."

-----oOo-----

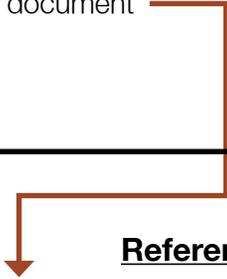
MILITARY MEDAL.
Authority London Gazette.
#29893 Dated 6-1-1917.

DEED OF ACTION.

Covering the Award of the MILITARY MEDAL.

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near COURCELETTE on the 7th, 8th, and 9th October, 1916. On the night of October 7th word was brought to Battalion Headquarters, that a man was lying in a trench some distance away, bleeding to death, this N.C.O., a signaller, volunteered to go and bind up his wound, which he did, although the trench was under terrific shell fire and he was in great peril. During the next two days he repeatedly went over the heavily shelled area and repaired broken telephone wires, thus keeping up communication with Brigade, which was of immense value to the situation. During twenty months service in the field his conduct has been one of uniform bravery and cheerful devotion to duty."

Note the error in the original document



Reference Item 155.

#22614 Lance-Corporal METCLAF, William Henry
16th. Battalion, Canadian Infantry.

VICTORIA CROSS.
Authority London Gazette.
#31012 Dated 15-11-18.

DEED OF ACTION.

Covering the Award of the Victoria Cross.

“For most conspicuous bravery, initiative, and devotion to duty in attack, when, the right flank of the Battalion being held up, he realized the situation and rushed forward under intense machine gun fire to a passing Tank on the left. With his signal flag he walked in front on the Tank, directing it along the trench in a perfect hail of bullets and bombs. The machine gun strong points were overcome, very heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and a very critical situation was relieved. Later, although wounded, he continued to advance until ordered to get until a shell-hole and have his wound dressed. His valour throughout was of the highest standard.”

MILITARY MEDAL.
Authority London Gazette.
#29893 Dated 6-1-1917.

DEED OF ACTION.

Covering the Award of the MILITARY MEDAL.

“For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near COURCELETTE on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of October, 1916. On the night of October 7th word was brought to Battalion Headquarters, that a man was lying in a trench some distance away, bleeding to death, this N.C.O., a signaller, volunteered to go and bind up his wound, which he did, although the trench was under terrific shell fire and he was in great peril. During the next two days he repeatedly went over the heavily shelled area and repaired broken telephone wires, thus keeping up communication with Brigade, which was of immense value to the situation. During twenty months service in the field his conduct has been one of uniform bravery and cheerful devotion to duty.”

4) ATTESTATION PAPER

22614

ATTESTATION PAPER.

No.



CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Folio.

613

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

1. What is your name? W H Metcalf
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? Waits Wash Coffaine N.S.C
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Mrs Thursa Rice
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? Derryville Maine Wash Co
5. What is the date of your birth? Jan 27th 1886
6. What is your Trade or Calling? Barber
7. Are you married? No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? Yes
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? No
If so, state particulars of former Service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? Yes

W H Metcalf (Signature of Man).
Frank Eason (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, William H Metcalf, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

W H Metcalf (Signature of Recruit)
Date Sept 23rd 1914. Frank Eason (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, William H Metcalf, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

W H Metcalf (Signature of Recruit)
Date Sept 23rd 1914. Dred J Claydon (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.
The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.
I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Valcartier P.R. this 23rd day of September 1914.

H. J. Deeds, Capt. (Signature of Justice)

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

H. F. Milner, H. C. (Approving Officer)

O.E. 12th Batt^y

ATTESTATION PAPER.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

(ANSWERS).

- 1. What is your name? W.H. Metcalf
 - 2. In what Town, Township or Parish and in what Country were you born? Waite, Wash. Co. Maine, USA
 - 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? Mrs. Thursa Rice
 - 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? Dennysville, Maine Wash. Co.
 - 5. What is the date of your birth? Jan 29th 1885
 - 6. What is your Trade or Calling? BARBER
 - 7. Are you married? No
 - 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? Yes
 - 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? No
 - 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? If so, state particulars of former Service. No
 - 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? Yes
 - 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? Yes
- W.H. Metcalf (Signature of Map).
Frank Eason Lieut (Signature of Witness).

DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, William H. Metcalf, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date Sept. 23rd 1914 W.H. Metcalf (Signature of Recruit)
Frank Eason Lieut (Signature of Witness)

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.

I, William H. Metcalf, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date Sept. 23rd 1914. W.H. Metcalf (Signature of Recruit)
Fred. J. Croyden (Signature of Witness)

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at Valcartier P.Q. this 23rd day of September 1914.

H.G. Deeks, Capt (Signature of Justice)
I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit

100 M. -8-14.

O.C. 12th Batt.

Captain
Officer Commanding

Lieutenant

Description of W. H. Metcalf on Enlistment.

Apparent Age 19 years _____ months.
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officers.)

Height 5 ft. 6 ins.

Class 1 (Girth when fully expanded 37 ins.)
(Range of expansion 3 ins.)

Complexion Dark

Eyes Brown

Hair Brown

Religious denominations.
 Church of England ✓
 Presbyterian _____
 Wesleyan _____
 Baptist or Congregationalist _____
 Other Protestants (Denomination to be stated.) _____
 Roman Catholic _____
 Jewish _____



CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him* Fit for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date August 29th 1914. [Signature]

Place Valcartier [Signature]
 Medical Officer.

*Insert here "fit" or "unfit".
 NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attacked, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness.—

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

W. H. Metcalf having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

W. H. Metcalf, Lt. (Signature of Officer)

Date Sep. 28 1914.

MOS

Description of W.H. Metcalf on Enlistment.

Apparent Age 19 years months.

(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Height ft 6 ins

Chest { Girth when fully expanded 37 ins
Range of expansion 3 ins.

Complexion Dark

Eyes Brown

Hair Brown

Church of England

Presbyterian

Wesleyan

Baptist or Congregationalist

Religious Denomination { Other Protestants
(Denomination to be stated.)

Roman Catholic

Jewish

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating peculiarities or previous disease.

(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer).

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him * Fit for the **Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force**.

Date August 29th 1914 Young

Place Valcartier 1914 [Illegible]

Medical Officer

*Insert here "fit" or "unfit."

NOTE. – Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness: -

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT.

W.H. Metcalf having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and by his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation.

 H.F. McLeod (Signature of Officer)

Date Sep 28 1914.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN: THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS

Use this worksheet to support Activity 5 of *Think Like a Historian: The Last Hundred Days* Education Guide.

In a small group, answer the following questions for one of the four sets of documents above.

.....

WHAT?	What kind of document is it?	
WHO?	Who is the author/creator of the document? What can you infer about the author?	
WHEN AND WHERE?	When and where was it created?	
WHY?	Why was it created? Who was the intended audience?	

What further questions do you have?

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN: THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS

Use this worksheet to support the Reaching Conclusions exercise in Activity 5 of *Think Like a Historian: The Last Hundred Days* Education Guide.

As you study the details of the personnel record, develop conclusions about Metcalf's wartime experience during the Last Hundred Days based on evidence from his Military Service File.

.....

	Evidence	Conclusions
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN: THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS

Use this worksheet to support the Finding Proof exercise in Activity 5 of *Think Like a Historian: The Last Hundred Days* Education Guide.

In pairs, compare your findings from Metcalf's Personnel Record with a letter written by Bertram Howard Cox, a soldier from the 59th Field Battery, Canadian Field Artillery (below). Identify the similarities and differences about how the Last Hundred Days is portrayed in Metcalf's Personnel Record and Cox's letter and record them in the chart.

.....

Point of comparison	Similarities	Differences
1.		
2.		
3..		
4.		
5..		

August 29th 1918

My dear Murrill, Herbert, and Carl, I've just got back from a great trip - souvenir hunting in the country that belonged to the Hun, a few days ago. It's great sport, going through his dug outs etc. etc. There's all kinds of stuff, but of course, the Infantry grab the best of it and they are always there ahead of us. I went into one of his dug outs, today, quite close to his original front line, about 50 ft. deep, fitted up as a forward dressing station. Bundles of bandages and dope to put in wounds etc. etc. All kinds of medical apparatus. Everything all along the trenches and dug outs is left just as it was when they heard the enemy coming. Am quite a distance away from the place, I wrote my last letter. We were rushed down here on short notice, to take part in another big offensive, which started at 3:00 AM on August 26th. It was carried out on the same principle as the battle of Aug. 8th (3rd. battle of the Somme), only this time the weather wasn't quite as good. Not bad enough to interfere with the advance, but kept drizzling all the time we were in action, which, of course, was in an open field. We didn't get any sleep for 3 nights, so at every opportunity, we'd flop on the ground, and rain or no rain, we were soon asleep. Terribly cold nights too, but none of us are any the worse for it. The days are very warm, but the nights never warm up. I very often go around without even a shirt on during the day, but have to wear a sweater, tunic and overcoat on guard at night. One thing about it, the lice haven't got a chance, these days, to bother us. There's no lying on the ground, rolling and tossing and scratching one's skin off. I'm asleep just as soon as I get under the blanket. The Canadians have suffered terrible losses during the last 3 days. Some companies have fought to the last man, but we have taken all our objectives. The Allies are certainly punching the enemy heavily, all along the Western Front. The news of the past month should be very encouraging to the people at home. The morale of the German troops must be very bad at the present time. The Infantry coming back from the line, tell us that they have never seen them give themselves up, as they have done lately. They throw their hands up and dance with joy. They are falling back so fast in front of us, here, that we have to take up new positions about every other day, or they are out of our range. Our new Major observed and controlled the fire of the Battery from the O.P. on the first day and he said it was the best shoot he had seen since he had been in France, and he has been over here, for 3 years. Gives him a good impression of the new bunch he has at his command. Please send this on to the others in NY. Haven't heard from Ella or self for a long time. Had letters from home a few days ago Write soon and love for Ella and the Kids, from your affectionate brother, Bertie.

PS August 30th Still Going Strong!

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN: THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS

Activity #6 Worksheet

Use this worksheet to support Activity 6 of *Think Like a Historian: The Last Hundred Days* Education Guide.

In pairs, read the article from 1919 and the editorial from 2018 (below). Identify the reasons why each author argued that the Last Hundred Days was a historically significant event.

Using a Venn Diagram, identify similarities and differences in how the significance of the Last Hundred Days is described in the 1919 article and in the 2018 editorial. Are the articles more similar or different in how they describe the significance of the campaign?

Last 100 Days of War Reviewed by Sir Arthur Currie

Article in *The Gazette*, Montreal, 20 August 1919, p. 6.

The last hundred days of the war, in which the Canadian Corps struck many heavy blows which finally brought about the collapse of the German military machine, came after the decision of the Supreme Allied War Council that only one more battle should be fought in 1918, Sir Arthur W. Currie, commander of the Canadian Corps and now inspector of Canadian forces, told an audience of 700 persons at today's Canadian Club luncheon in the Chateau Laurier.

"On August 1st, 1918," said General Currie, "the War Council had decided we would fight only one more battle, which was to be an effort to free the Paris-Amiens railway and gain the Amiens defence line. Then all the Allied forces in the west front would make their positions secure and wait until this spring for the American army to get there in strength. Then it was planned that we would finish the war."

However, said Sir Arthur, the attack on the Amiens line had resulted so splendidly that it was decided to push ahead, and the result was the collapse of the German defence system and the signing of the armistice on November 11.

Previous to the delivery of the great hammer blows planned by Marshal Foch, the Canadians had been held in reserve, and had held 35 miles of front, which was one-fifth of the entire British front and included ground than which there was no more tempting bait for the Boche, part of the great coal fields being within the ground held by the Canadian Corps.

ORGANIZATION AND SECRECY

Careful organization and great secrecy were among the factors vital to the Canadians' success, said the commander. So carefully had the movement of the Canadians in the first days of August, 1918, been covered up, that the King of the Belgians protested to Marshal Foch that the Canadians were about to deliver an attack in his country and he had not been advised of the fact. At the same time the British War Office was receiving complaints that the Canadian force was being divided up, some being sent to Belgium for an attack, while others went to another front.

The movements of the Canadian troops were so well covered that the Germans had no idea they were in the neighbourhood when the attack was launched, and so well were the enemy positions noted that the Canadian gunners opened fire creating a perfect barrage over the enemy trenches, without having to lose any time in registering the Boche positions. [...]

There were days previous to August, 1918, said Sir Arthur in his address, when it was nothing but the rugged determination and will to win that carried officers and men through, but with the breach of the Hindenburg line at the hinge with the Quéant-Drocourt switch, things had changed and people in the Allied countries began to get new heart for the struggle. [...]

ARTILLERY'S SPLENDID WORK

The Canadian artillery, said General Currie, had done its share during the final days. In the last three months of war the Canadians had fired 25 per cent of all the ammunition fired by the entire British army.

General Currie referred to the growth of respect of the Canadian forces from their arrival in France until the end of war. When the enemy had first used poisoning gas, General Smith-Dorrien had said to him that, knowing of the enemy tactics and the retirement of the troops to the left and right of the Canadians, he (General Smith-Dorrien) had foreseen the worst disaster in the annals of the British army.

When the news came back that the Canadians were holding, he could not believe it and had sent up again and again for news. The reputation made for doggedness was more than borne out by the Canadians in later years until in the end the Canadian Corps had come to be recognized as the hardest hitting force on the whole Allied front.

The different organization method, which made it possible to choose certain divisions for such work and the placing of the engineers and artillery of the corps had given the Canadians an advantage, said General Currie, and this factor was largely responsible for their success later. "I am glad to say," said the speaker, "that our citizen army fought against the greatest military machine the world ever produced, yet never lost a gun in four years; in the last two years never failed to take an objective, and there were some of our divisions which never allowed a hostile foot to enter their trenches. We never lost an inch of ground that we had once consolidated."

THE LAST HUNDRED DAYS

The hundred days from August 8, 1918 had seen remarkable successes, and General Currie said he would urge the Government to educate the people more in what that period meant to Canada. The Canadians had previously been held on Haig's reserve, ready to move wherever the Boche struck "and," said General Currie, "it was only a question then of how many more blows we could withstand."

Haig had said that in all the dark days, his remaining comfort was that he had the Canadians to fall back upon. The Canadian force had been used as the spearhead in the Amiens drive. We made the plan, set the time and the pace. The secrecy had been perfect, and the objective, the old Amiens line, was taken the first night. "That day we penetrated eight miles, the greatest penetration by any army in the war, and our victory had a wonderful effect. By August 13 we had penetrated 14,000 yards and reached the old Somme battlefield, which the Boche had left in 1916. The wire and machine gun emplacements were still there, and the ground was filled with enemy reserves."

General Currie said he had then advised that the Canadian be moved to assist the Third British Army driving from Bapaume, and after that army had later struck, the Canadians were called upon, and were the first to break the Hindenburg line. During the eight days the battle lasted, they pierced five systems of German trenches. He then told of Foch's hammer blow which resulted in the Canadians going in at Canal du Nord, Bourslon Wood and Cambrai and compared the battles there with Vimy. The Canadians in the last one hundred days had faced forty-seven different Boche divisions or more than a quarter of the enemy's forces on the western front. No force in the world, said General Currie, had played a greater part in finally ending the struggle and bringing the Boche to his knees.

TROOPS' WONDERFUL SPIRIT

The spirit of the troops even to the last had been such that the gunners and stretcher bearers worked through gas attacks without masks in order to give their comrades better support and assistance. Of the sixty-four Victoria Crosses won by Canadians during the war, thirty had been awarded for the last one hundred days. There was nothing they would not do to win. Of the men who lie buried in Flanders, Canada can best cherish their memory by doing her duty to those who were their dependents as the men had done their duty for Canada. [...]



On this day 100 years ago, Canadian troops led the First World War's final charge

J.L. Granatstein, *Maclean's*, 7 August 2018.

"Every gun shot together," wrote Gunner Bertie Cox, "and the thing was off. I never heard anything like it in my life... We fired our first shot at 4:20 a.m. at 800 yards and in three hours, the enemy was out of our range (6,500 yards)."

It was the first of Canada's Hundred Days that ended the Great War. The attack at Amiens, France, set the Allies on the road to victory, and the Canadian Corps, led by Lt.-Gen. Sir Arthur Currie, was in the vanguard.

The Canadians had established a record as "shock troops" at Vimy Ridge, Hill 70 and Passchendaele and, whenever the Germans knew Currie was going to attack, they prepared for the worst. Getting the Corps to Amiens had to be accomplished in secret, and this was no simple task. From their positions near Arras, 65 km to the north, the 100,000 Canadians and all their equipment, trucks, guns, horses, food and ammunition had to be moved quietly at night by road, rail and on foot. Soldiers were ordered, "Keep your mouth shut!" Disinformation tactics were aimed to persuade the Germans that the Canadians would attack on the Arras front. The staff officers planning the Amiens attack had to draft their orders in a hurry.

Flanked by Australian and French formations, the Canadians went into action in the early morning, the infantry, accompanied by tanks, following the heavy artillery barrage closely, keeping pace as the gunfire moved ahead in one-kilometre increments.

The tanks, "creeping down the slope like huge great beetles," as Padre F.G. Scott wrote, played a critical role, shooting up German machine-gun posts. "Fortunately for us," Lance Cpl. Ken Foster of the 2nd Battalion said, "the tanks soon put them out of action, provided of course, that an anti-tank shell did not get them first. Without the tanks, I'm afraid it would have been a hopeless task."

The Germans, stunned by the artillery barrage and the tanks, initially offered little resistance as the infantry advanced. Maj. Ian Sinclair of the 13th Battalion wrote that his unit cleared a wood but then faced heavy fire from a trench where "a large party of Huns held out, using rifle grenades and bombs effectively." Two Canadian mortars "assisted in quickly reducing the garrison, who put up white flags." By noon, John Scratcherd, a young artillery officer said, "it had developed into the kind of war that I have always dreamt about. Open country with no trenches or barbed wire, and no artillery fire; cavalry dashing all over the place rounding up the parties of Hun and armoured cars rushing about."

For the Allied soldiers who had fought the war in the trenches, open warfare really must have seemed like a dream. The hard slogging for small patches of shell-torn ground won at a very high cost had been replaced by rapid advances and combined arms warfare—infantry, artillery, armour, engineers rapidly bridging streams, good communications and the Royal Air Force overhead strafing enemy positions.

Open warfare did not mean fewer casualties—fighting in the face of machine guns inevitably took a heavy toll—but at least there were genuine gains. So much so that Gen. Erich Ludendorff, the Germans' chief strategist, called Aug. 8 "the black day." The Germans had launched huge attacks against the Allies between March and June, but now, after Amiens, there was no longer hope of resuming the offensive. The enemy now knew the war must be terminated.

Not yet, however. The Canadians continued the attack for the next several days, but German reinforcements of men and aircraft had been poured in, the Allied supply chain began to break down, and the costs for every metre of ground increased. Currie and the Australian Corps' Sir John Monash urged the British Expeditionary Force commander, Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, to halt the advance. Haig agreed, telling Currie that Amiens was "the finest operation of the war." The Canadian Corps soon returned to the Arras front to recuperate and ready for the next assault.

The attack at Amiens had been an extraordinary success, the Canadians going forward 13 km on the first day and gaining an additional 10 km before the attack came to a halt. But the toll had been heavy: 11,822 officers and men killed, wounded or taken prisoner. There were no easy victories in the First World War.



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