

The Mannequin & the Diary

Activity 1 Worksheet:

Understanding the Mannequin & the Diary

Video 1: Signing Up & Training

Fact

1. What happened in 1914 that caused Byron Cooper Sisler to stop working at his job with the bank?
2. What did Byron Cooper Sisler have to do to prepare for the battlefields of Europe?

Interpretation

3. Why do you think Byron Cooper Sisler signed up for the war?

Research question

4. Look up Byron Cooper Sisler's Attestation papers and find one piece of information about him that is not covered in the video.

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/search.aspx>

Video 2: Headed for Europe

Fact

1. In the opening scene, Lottie uses a map that identifies most of the countries involved in WWI. List the countries. Can you name any countries that are missing?
2. Describe at least two characteristics of Sisler's day-to-day living while at training camp (meals, routine etc.).

Interpretation

3. In his diary, Byron Cooper Sisler says that the soldiers were trained to assemble their guns while blind-folded. Why do you think this would be a useful skill?

Research question

4. Byron Cooper Sisler crossed the Atlantic on the S.S. Lapland. Go to the 'Themes and Images' section of this site and find out what famous ship had a connection with the S.S. Lapland.

Video 3: Far from Home

Fact

1. When at the training camp in Shorncliffe in England, how close was Byron Cooper Sisler to the Western Front? What separated the training camp from the Western Front?
2. Who were the canaries and why did they get that nickname?

Interpretation

3. How do you think things changed for Canadian women during the war?

Research

4. Women on the homefront contributed in many ways to the war effort, but so did children. Visit the 'Themes and Images' section for the 'Far From Home' video segment and identify two other ways children helped with the war effort.

Video 4: Surviving the Trenches

Fact

1. Two trenches are mentioned by name in the video. What are the two names?
2. Name one important difference between the two trenches?

Interpretation

3. Sisler writes in his diary that after the Battle for Regina Trench, the soldiers had moved forward 150 yards. Do you think this is very far?

Research

4. Visit the 'Themes and Images' section for the "Surviving the Trenches" video segment and find out what the expression "going over the top" means.

Video 5 Going Home

Fact

1. Sisler spent the best part of the war in the army. What other branch of the Armed Forces did he try before the war ended?
2. Throughout the video, Sisler refers to three different battles that he fought in; name three of them.

Interpretation

3. In the lead up to the Calonne Trench raid, Sisler stops writing in his diary. Why was it important for the soldiers not to write in their diaries?

Research

4. Visit the 'Themes and Images' section for the "Going Home" video segment and find out what the symbols of the lion and the eagle represent on the 'Death Penny'.