

Student 6: High Not Achieved
NZQA Intended for teacher use only

**Research proposal:**

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Reasons: I have chosen to research Passchendaele for my assessment. This is because I was fascinated with the idea that there was more to World War One than just Gallipoli. Gallipoli was a horrific event that New Zealand was a part of, but it was interesting to find out that there were many more battles that New Zealand soldiers took part in that were in fact much worse, such as the battle of Passchendaele. All I had ever learnt about World War One and New Zealand's involvement was the ANZACs at Gallipoli and the battle of Crete. I want to find out what actually happened at Passchendaele, what the conditions were like for the soldiers who fought there, how it impacted New Zealand and why there are so many New Zealanders that have never heard of it.

**Focusing questions:**

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1. What happened at Passchendaele?
2. What were the conditions like for soldiers at Passchendaele?
3. What impact/affect did the battle of Passchendaele have on New Zealanders?

**Identifying possible sources:**

3

WW1 section of Museum  
 www.nzhistoryonline and other history websites  
 Books on WW1  
 Wikipedia (to find other relevant sources)

**Examples of annotations:**

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<p>This article is a secondary source and it is relevant as it gives us information about Haig's plan, to sweep through Flanders to the coast and his aims throughout the war. It also gives us a brief overview of some of what happened during the war at Passchendaele and it tells us a little bit about the difficulties the soldiers faced due to the weather in early August. "The area was saturated with the heaviest rain the region had seen in thirty years... Tanks...simply got stuck and 'The fields...became impassable".</p>	<p>This photograph is a primary source that gives us an aerial view of Passchendaele, before and after the war. This source is relevant and reliable as it is an actual photo taken during the time of the war and shows us the horrific damage of the third battle of Ypres, Flanders Field, Belgium. The white spots in the bottom/after picture are water and mud filled shell holes, so we can get an idea of what the soldiers at Passchendaele fought in.</p>
<p>This secondary article is a relevant source as it gives us more insight into Haig's plans and reasoning's during the battle of Passchendaele. It tells us that 'Haig insisted that the British should press ahead and Haig pushed Plumer to continue the attacks and Haig ordered a final three attacks on</p>	<p>This is a relevant source because it gives information on some of the casualties seen by New Zealand during the war at Passchendaele. On 12 October 1917, 845 New Zealanders were killed in one morning. It tells us what a great tragedy this war was for New Zealand.</p>

Passchendaele in late October.	
<p>This is from a war diary/intelligence summary of the 25th Battalion (2nd Division) and demonstrates the typical look of a war diary. This is a primary source as it was written by a soldier during the Passchendaele war and <b>it is very useful as it tells us</b> what happened during 3 days of the war. It tells us of shelling all through the early morning and what it was like on the front line at Passchendaele. It also says that on November 8th the casualties for total trip were 17 killed, 57 wounded and 6 missing. This source is <b>reliable as it is an actual recording</b> of what happened during those three days from November 6 to November 9.</p>	<p>This is a secondary source and it is relevant to my question as it reveals that 'Even amid the horror of war, daily life was often a mixture of routine and boredom, and everyday human activities continued as best they could'. It tells us that in their free time the soldiers would write letters to their families and loved ones or read and play cards. They also carried out routine chores, although they were a little bit different than the chores they would do at home. They consisted of 'Cleaning their rifles and other gear, filling sandbags, repairing trenches or digging latrines'. The troops also washed themselves and their clothes and shaved whenever they had the opportunity.</p>

### Evaluation:

One of the things that I found most difficult in this research assignment was finding sources for my question 'why is Passchendaele so overshadowed by Gallipoli?' I still do not know the real reason as to why Gallipoli overshadows Passchendaele so much as the death rate was far greater at Passchendaele and therefore should have had a greater impact on New Zealand society so it should be commemorated more. In the end, **I took out that question and settled for another one.** One of the things I found quite easy was finding sources to my question 'what happened at Passchendaele?' as there is **lots of information on the internet** that gives brief and detailed accounts of what happened during the war. However, I found it very difficult to write relevance's to all these sources as **they all gave the same information.**

My line of Inquiry changed many times within the first week of this assessment as I found it **quite difficult to choose a topic and get started on it.** And towards the end of this assessment I **changed two of my questions as I was finding it very difficult to find enough relevant sources for each question.**

If I were to do this same research task again there are many things I would change. Firstly, I would try to **manage my time better and use my time more efficiently and get started on the assessment right away.** By improving my time management, my relevance's would be a lot less rushed and be of a higher quality. Before we started this assessment myself and a group of history students visited the Auckland Museum to help us choose a topic, which was quite helpful, but if I were to do this assessment again I would definitely **revisit the Museum later on in my research as I would have more of an idea about what I was looking for and the Museum has very good resources.** Books on Passchendaele, photographs, and diary entry's etc. and I could talk to people at the Museum who have a better knowledge of the battle of Passchendaele...