

## SUPPLY LINE LESSON PLAN

# IDENTITY

## SOLDIERS OF THE CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Intermediate and high school version

### OVERVIEW

In this lesson, students will use primary source material to create a picture of some of the Canadians who participated in the First World War.

### GRADE LEVELS:

7 to 12, Secondary 1 to 5 in Quebec

### CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Social Studies; History; Language Arts; Media Arts; Geography

### ESTIMATED TIME:

3-4 class periods

### OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Use primary source material to learn about Canadian soldiers during the First World War;
- Develop an appreciation of the diversity of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

### MATERIALS REQUIRED

- Objects from the First World War discovery box
  - Attestation Paper
  - Nursing Apron
  - Soldier's Photo Album
  - Service Dress Cap and Cap Badge
  - Service Dress Jacket and Canada Shoulder Title
- Corresponding Artifact Information Labels
- Corresponding Contextual Photographs
- Corresponding Artifact Backgrounders
- Photocopies of **Worksheets 1, 2, 3**
- Photocopies of **Appendices 1, 2** (optional)
- Tape measure
- Art materials: pencil crayons, markers or paint
- Interactive whiteboard (optional)

### Important:

The First World War discovery box includes both authentic artifacts from the First World War (about 100 years old) and high quality reproductions of objects from the First World War (made more recently). All objects, whether authentic or reproduction, should be treated with care.



## LESSON

### PART A – INTRODUCTION

Discuss as a class Canada's response to the outbreak of the First World War.

- Who were the people of Canada in 1914? Talk about immigration, First Peoples, Confederation, urban living vs. rural.
- What kinds of jobs did Canadians have?
- Why did Canada participate in the First World War?
- What were the motivations of the individuals who volunteered for the war?

Approximately 619,000 Canadians went overseas to fight during the First World War. For every Canadian who signed up to participate, an attestation paper was completed. These forms have been preserved at the Library and Archives Canada and all have been digitized and are available for consultation online. These forms can tell us a lot about the people who fought for Canada during the First World War and what life was like in Canada at the time.

*Note: Library and Archives Canada holds microfilm copies of the military personnel files of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment and Newfoundland Forestry Corps. These files have been digitized by **The Rooms** and are available for consultation online.*

### PART B – ATTESTATION PAPER

Display the image of **Appendix 1 – Attestation Paper** for the class using an interactive whiteboard. Alternatively, display via overhead projector or distribute photocopies for student to examine.

As a class, go through the document and discuss the information provided. Use the questions in **Worksheet 1 – Service Personnel Information** to extract the relevant information.

Continue your analysis of the document with the following questions:

- Based on the answers given by the soldier at the time of enlistment, what inferences can be made about his pre-war experiences?
- Why would the military want to know a soldier's marital status?
- Would participation in a militia have been considered an advantage?
- What can the soldier's pre-war occupation tell us about his experience, skills or character?
- Why does the soldier swear an oath to "His Majesty King George the Fifth"?
- Why would the military want to know a soldier's religion?
- What might disqualify a man as "unfit"? (poor teeth, flat feet, too short)

### PART C – ENLISTMENT

Divide the class into pairs and distribute copies of **Worksheet 2 – Blank Attestation Paper**. Have students take turns playing the role of the recruitment officer and the enlisting soldier. Are there questions that are difficult to answer or that may not seem relevant today? Why?

## PART D – SOLDIER’S PHOTO ALBUM

Attestation papers offer only a glimpse of a snapshot of a soldier’s experience at the time of his enlistment. To get a more complete picture of soldier of the CEF, additional sources are required. Researchers may consult service personnel records, war diaries, personal items such as letters, photos or souvenirs, newspaper articles, etc. The Canadian War Museum holds many of these records and artifacts. In the case of Will van Allen, subject of the English attestation paper included as Appendix 1,<sup>1</sup> his wife donated three of his Albums to the museum. The selection of images in the reproduction photo album contained in the Discovery Box tell Will van Allen’s story.

Display the PDF of the Soldier’s Photo Album on an interactive whiteboard. Alternatively, display via overhead projector or distribute photocopies for students to examine.

Explore the photo album as a class and discuss the additional information we can learn about Will van Allen based on his photos, captions and ephemera.

What questions do you still have about Will van Allen? Where might you begin searching for answers?

## PART E – SOLDIER RESEARCH

Encourage students to conduct their own research by evaluating the attestation papers of other soldiers and nurses. You may choose to use the examples provided in **Appendix 2 – Additional Attestation Papers**, or choose your own. You may choose to have students review attestation papers from your community or province. Alternatively you may choose attestation papers from across the country to get a more diverse picture of the Canadians who made up the CEF.

Digitized copies of attestation papers can be found via the Library and Archives Canada, Soldiers of the First World War, 1914-1918 Database or on *The Rooms* website in the case of the soldiers from Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

Have students work in groups of 3 or 4 to complete **Worksheet 1 – Service Personnel Information**. Note that students may require assistance in deciphering handwriting.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY:

- Have students conduct more in-depth research by exploring complete service personnel records. Many files can currently be accessed online through the Library and Archives Canada, Soldiers of the First World War database.
- Based on the research conducted in Part E, have students imagine what might have been the experience of this soldier and create a fictional scrapbook. Use images from Canada and the First World War and from the Canadian War Museum’s [Military History Research Centre](#) database.

<sup>1</sup> Note: Will van Allen’s attestation paper is available in English only. When doing this activity in French, you can use the French attestation paper as an example, and then continue with the story of Will van Allen using the photo album, which has been translated.

## WORKSHEETS

- 1 – Service Personnel Information
- 2 – Blank Attestation Paper

## APPENDICES

(Must be downloaded separately)

- 1 – Attestation Paper, English
- 2 – Soldier's Photo Album
- 3 – Additional Attestation Papers

---

**SERVICE PERSONNEL INFORMATION**

**Student name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Service or Regimental Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Officers did not have regimental numbers)*

**Height and Weight:**

**Colour of Eyes:**

**Scars or Markings on Body:**

**Marital Status:**

**Religion:**

**Address:**

**Next of Kin (and relationship):**

**Date of Enlistment:**

**City and Province of Enlistment:**

**BLANK ATTESTATION PAPER**

**ATTESTATION PAPER.**

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Folio. \_\_\_\_\_

**CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.**

**QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.**

(ANSWERS.)

1. What is your surname?.....
- 1a. What are your Christian names?.....
- 1b. What is your present address?.....
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?.....
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?.....
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?.....
- 4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin?.....
5. What is the date of your birth?.....
6. What is your Trade or Calling?.....
7. Are you married?.....
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated?.....
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?.....
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?.....  
If so, state particulars of former Service.
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?.....
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the }  
CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? }

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I,....., do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they 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.

.....(Signature of Recruit)

Date.....191.....(Signature of Witness)

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I,....., 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.

.....(Signature of Recruit)

Date.....191.....(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.....this.....day of.....191

.....(Signature of Justice)

M. F. W. 23.  
400M.-1-16  
E. Q. 1772-29-341.



**DESCRIPTION OF \_\_\_\_\_ ON ENLISTMENT.**

<p>Apparent Age..... years..... months. <small>(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)</small></p> <p>Height..... ins.</p> <p>Chest measurement { Girth when fully expanded..... ins. Range of expansion..... ins.</p> <p>Complexion.....</p> <p>Eyes.....</p> <p>Hair.....</p> <p>Religious Denominations { Church of England..... Presbyterian..... Methodist..... Baptist or Congregationalist..... Other Protestants..... <small>(Denomination to be stated.)</small> Roman Catholic..... Jewish.....</p>	<p>Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.</p> <p><small>(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.)</small></p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**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\*..... for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date..... 191 .

Place.....

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**

..... 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.

..... (Signature of Officer.)

Date..... 191