

Desertion in the First World War

Description:

In this lesson, you will examine primary sources about desertion in the 118th Battalion during the First World War (1914 – 1918). Working in groups, you will be assigned a soldier and it is your task to present to the class who your soldier was. You must also present the circumstances surrounding your soldiers' desertion. Afterwards, as a class, you will all discuss why soldiers deserted and how the military dealt with desertion.

Instructions:

- 1) At your computer, navigate to the Waterloo at War website and read the description of the 118th Battalion: <http://www.waterlootwar.ca/topics/>.
- 2) Click on the left image below the description of the 118th that is titled 'The Lohead Files,' and read the biography of Lieutenant Colonel W. M. O. Lohead.
- 3) Navigate to the deserter's page (<http://www.waterlootwar.ca/desertion-pdfs/>) and click on the name of the soldier assigned to your group.
- 4) Use the documents to write a brief account of your soldier's service up to the time they were charged with desertion.
- 5) Use the account you wrote to create a time-line of events about your soldier to present to the class.