

Running a Battalion in the First World War

Description:

In this activity, you will be given several documents that showcase daily life for a soldier living with their unit in the First World War (1914 – 1918). You will use primary source documents online through the *Waterloo at War* website to learn details about daily soldier life. Using what you learn, your task is to assume you are a soldier from the First World War and write a letter home describing what your life has been like while living with your unit.

Instructions:

- 1) At your computer, navigate to the *Waterloo at War* website and read the description of the 118th Battalion: <http://www.waterloowar.ca/topics/>.
- 2) Click on the following links to read soldiers' letters from the First World War. Use the links to gather information about daily life for soldiers in a regiment.
 - [File 28](#) (Circular Letters) Letters from 1st Division Officer outlining various training regiments.
 - [File 29](#) (Canteen) p. 6. Letter from Lieut.-Col. Lohead to Capt. Spencer about the canteen.
 - [File 29](#) (Canteen) p. 9. Abstract of receipts and expenditures in the canteen for February.
 - [File 51](#) (Board of Inquiry)
 - [File 7](#) (Discipline)
- 3) Using the information you have learned about living as a soldier, write an in-character letter to a loved one about daily life on the front lines during the war. Apply your knowledge learned in class of Canadian social history in this period to help write your letter.