



Virtual Reality resources - School guidance

Passchendaele, also known as the Third Battle of Ypres was one of the more controversial battles of World War I. In three-and-a-half months between July and November 1917, an advance of less than five miles cost an estimated 550,000 Allied and German troops, killed, wounded or lost. Around 90,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers were missing; 50,000 buried without being identified and 42,000 never recovered, blown to pieces or sunk for ever as the Belgian fields of Flanders turned into an ocean of mud.

Fought between July and November 1917, the battle saw an estimated 550,000 Allied and German troops killed, wounded or lost, and remains one of the most notorious battles of the First World War. The 100th anniversary of the battle provides an opportunity to commemorate the Service and sacrifice of those who lost their lives.

What is Virtual Reality?

Virtual reality is the term used to describe a three-dimensional, computer generated environment which can be explored and interacted with. When viewing, you become part of this virtual world and are immersed within this environment.

What this content is?

The video clips are an educational and engaging way for students to delve into the different stages of the battle, uncovering life in the trenches, going over the top, gruelling battlefield conditions, medicine, logistics and the role of the labour corps throughout the battle. These are packaged into the themes below:

- Preparing for the battle and the first day
- Lack of progress and the turnaround
- The final battles and the aftermath

Alongside the media content we have also developed a range of case studies from those men and women involved 100 years ago. These are some of the untold stories of Passchendaele and represent the diverse range of individuals.

We hope these stories will provide a basis for students to further research experiences of the battle and consider what life was like for soldiers, nurses, supporting personnel and love ones back home.

How schools can use it?

The content will compliment curriculum by providing an interactive experience for young people within a classroom environment.

Students can view all media content on a desktop. However in order to get the most impact from the 360 films, use a tablet or mobile phone to maximise the experience.

All content is suitable for key stage 3 age groups (11 – 14year olds). Please note that the resources do contain graphic images realistic of the battlefield conditions. These may be seen as offensive to a younger audience.

Supporting resources:

[Every Man Remembered](#) - The Royal British Legion in partnership with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission aims to commemorate over 1 million Commonwealth Service men and women killed during the First World War. Create a dedication to one of them, place a poppy in their memory and search for a relative or someone from your local area to commemorate.

[National Memorial Arboretum](#) – In partnership with The Royal British Legion, the National Memorial Arboretum is commemorating the Centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele and investigating the social change which occurred as a result of the Empire at War. Passchendaele guided walks and WWI replica trench experience will be among other things onsite for visitors to engage in.

[Imperial War Museum](#) – Online research and collection

[Passchendaele \(2008\) film](#)

[‘Lives of the First World War’](#) - The Imperial War Museums digital memorial to all those who served in the First World War for Britain and the Commonwealth. Discover more about the men and women who took part in Passchendaele and find out about your own First World War ancestry.

[The Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) has developed a casualty database which lists the names and place of commemoration of the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died during the two world wars.

[The Unremembered Project](#) runs until the end of November 2017, the Unremembered is a community participation project commemorating the centenary of the Labour Corps joining the First World War. You can apply for small-scale funding to hold your own Unremembered event and commemorate the efforts of the Labour Corps.