

**ACTIVITY THREE: EXPLORING MEMORABILIA 2 (BOXED SET OF ITEMS)****Learning Objectives**

- To explore methods of enquiry;
- To understand how evidence is used to make historical claims;
- To develop informed responses to historical information.

**Resources: Memorabilia Pack 2**

- Recruitment posters x3 (double-sided)
- Letter in an envelope
- Concert programme
- 'Wandsworth Regulars' Recruitment flyer
- 'Women's national Land Service Corps' Recruitment flyer
- Typed letter
- Set of postcard size black and white photographs
- Set of picture postcards
- Small pink card
- Green ticket
- Royal Fusilliers recruitment card
- Small brown 'Important Notice'
- Blue Army proceedings sheet and a pale sheet with witnesses for the defence and the prosecution
- Brown red cross card
- Green child's ration book
- Certificate of exemption
- Form from the war office
- Soldier's pay book
- The Wipers Times
- The Illustrated War News
- Instruction booklet on what to do if you capture an enemy trench
- Daily Graphic newspaper
- Secret papers
- 2 x sets of cigarette cards

**MAIN TASKS**

1. Share out the resources – you could put a selection on tables and ask students to select and then discuss several items in pairs. You could limit the amount of time devoted to each item so that students learn to analyse and discuss from first impressions, or give them longer to see how much can be gleaned from small amounts of materials.
2. Use the following Discussion Questions or prompts to help investigate fully (also available as a worksheet for written responses).

## Memorabilia Discussion Questions

### 1. Recruitment posters x3 (double-sided)

For each recruitment poster, discuss the following questions:

- a. What can you see on the poster? Who can you see? Can you think of some adjectives to describe them? What is happening?
- b. What are the posters trying to do?
- c. How do you think a man would have felt when he saw this?
- d. How do you think the people in the poster feel? Where are they looking?
- e. Do you think the poster would have been effective? Why/why not?

### 2. Letter in an envelope

- a. Have a look at beginning of the letter. Who is he writing to? What relationship is the person to him do you think?
- b. Can you read any of the writing?! What sort of things is he writing about?
- c. Have a look at the envelope. What can you see on it? What has happened to the letter?
- d. On the bottom left, the soldier has to sign a declaration, 'I certify on my honour that the contents of this envelope refer to nothing but private and family matters'. Why do you think he had to do this?

### 3. Concert programme

- a. What was this concert for? Who was involved?
- b. Where did the concert take place?
- c. What kind of entertainment was in the concert?
- d. Why do you think concerts like this were needed?
- e. What is being advertised on the back of the programme and why?

### 4. 'Wandsworth Regulars' Recruitment flyer

- a. What is this poster for? What is special about this battalion?
- b. Look at how much the men got paid. Why do you think they got paid more if they had a child?

### 5. 'Women's national Land Service Corps' Recruitment flyer

- a. What do you think 'land service' is?
- b. Who did they want to recruit and what skills did they need?
- c. Where would they be working?
- d. Did they have to go for an interview?

### 6. Typed letter

- a. Look at the first paragraph. Where is he? Is he enjoying himself? Why/why not?
- b. Look at the second paragraph. What is he eating out there?
- c. What is he talking about in paragraph three? How does he feel about it?
- d. At the bottom of the first page, what has his wife sent him?
- e. At the top of the second page, what does he say about baths?
- f. Overall, how do you think he feels?

### 7. Set of postcard size black and white photographs

- a. What can you see in the first photograph? Where are they? What do you think has happened?

- b. Look at the picture set in an office. What do you think is happening here?
- c. Look at the picture of the tank. How does it make you feel? What do you think it would have been like to be in one of these?
- d. Look at the photograph with the horse in. This is a very interesting photograph. What do you think the man and the horse are wearing?
- e. What is on the card that does not have a photograph on in this pack?

### **8. Set of picture postcards**

- a. What can you see in the postcards?
- b. Who do you think sent these postcards? Who received them?
- c. Look at the postcard with the three men under an orange sky. What do you think the men are thinking about? How do you think they feel? What is in the middle of them on the table? Look at the song at the bottom. What do you think 'dear old Blighty' means?
- d. Look at the postcard called 'till the boys come home'. What can you see? What is going to happen? How do you think all the people are feeling? Who is the song aimed at?
- e. Look at the postcard called 'out for victory'. What is the girl doing? Why is she doing it?
- f. Look at the postcard of the men in the trenches. What are they doing? What do you think it must have been like in that trench? How do you think they feel?
- g. Look at the postcard of the man dreaming. What is he dreaming about? Why do you think he is shown at the beginning of a long, windy road?

### **9. Small pink card**

- a. What is this card advertising? Where is it?

### **10. Green ticket**

- a. Where was this ticket from and to?
- b. Who was the ticket for?
- c. How much did it cost? Why do you think this was?
- d. How long does the person have on leave? What does 'on leave' mean?

### **11. Royal Fusilliers recruitment card**

- a. What are the benefits of being in this regiment?

### **12. Small brown 'Important Notice'**

- a. What is this notice about? Why this was necessary? What would happen if you disobeyed?

### **13. Blue Army proceedings sheet and a pale sheet with witnesses for the defence and the prosecution**

- a. Have a look at the side with columns on the blue sheet. What is this sheet for?
- b. How many men are involved?
- c. What have they done?
- d. What is the result of the case?
- e. What punishment do the two men receive? Look at the comment on the other side as well for this.
- f. How do you feel about this?

- g. Have a look at the witness statements. Can you understand any of this? (the important bits are underlined!)

#### **14. Brown red cross card**

- a. What is this card about? Look at both sides. What has happened to the soldier? Why do you think cards like this were produced?

#### **15. Green child's ration book**

- a. What was the name of the child who had this book?
- b. What was the book for? Why do you think it was needed?
- c. Look at the front and back pages. What did you have to do to spend these tokens?
- d. What problems do you think there would have been with ration books like this? What problems would there have been with having food rationed?

#### **16. Certificate of exemption**

- a. What is this certificate for?
- b. What did the person on this certificate do that made him eligible for this certificate?

#### **17. Form from the war office**

- a. What happened to the soldier mentioned at the top of the letter?
- b. Who do you think the letter is addressed to?
- c. Why do you think this information is written on a form, rather than, for example, somebody coming to speak to them?

#### **18. Soldier's pay book**

- a. What is this book for? Why did a soldier need it?
- b. What information is in the book?
- c. At the back the soldier has the opportunity to make a short Will (a signed paper stating who you want to leave your possessions to). Why was this necessary? What does this soldier want to do if he dies?

#### **19. The Wipers Times**

- a. This was a spoof (jokey) newspaper produced by the soldiers at Ypres in France. What kind of articles does it have in it?
- b. Read the joke advertisement on the back for taxis – what do you think they are actually talking about?
- c. Why do you think the soldiers might have created a newspaper like this?

#### **20. The Illustrated War News**

- a. Have a look through the paper. What can you see in the pictures?
- b. Have a look at the last two pages called 'Women and the War'? What are the women doing in the pictures? Do you think they would have done this kind of work before the war?
- c. Who do you think this magazine was produced for?
- d. Generally, do you think the magazine is positive or negative towards the British Army?
- e. Why do you think a magazine like this was produced?

## **21. Instruction booklet on what to do if you capture an enemy trench**

- a. Look at the titles of the different sections in the booklet. What different types of place are mentioned?
- b. Look at the diagrams at the back. Can you understand what they are trying to show?
- c. Why do you think a booklet like this might have been needed?

## **22. Daily Graphic newspaper**

- a. Have a quick look through the newspaper. What kind of articles does this newspaper have in it?
- b. What can you see in the pictures that accompany the articles?
- c. Who do you think would have bought this newspaper?
- d. Why do you think people wanted to read about the war and see photos of it?

## **23. Secret papers**

- a. Why do you think these papers are marked 'secret'? What information do they have in them?
- b. Have a look at the map that accompanies these papers. What can you see in it? What do you think the red markings are?

## **24.2 x sets of cigarette cards**

- a. What can you see in the pictures? Each set is about one type of thing. What is it?
- b. Why do you think people would have wanted to have these kinds of pictures?

## **Review**

Ask students to select one item and share their responses with the rest of the class. Does everyone agree with their findings or are the responses open to interpretation? What does this say about history? Discuss the complexity of objectivity and subjectivity over historical events, materials and experiences.