

Scots language and culture teacher CPD

Unit 4.4 Activity 3A Source 3

Accounts of life during World War I in Scots (Jock Duncan 2018)

Joining up
<i>I jined up wi ma pal Fred Duncan efter the leaflets cam oot fae Kitchener needin a hunner thoosan men. We biket wi a lot mair fae Millbrenx ti Peterhead ti jine up in the 5th Gordon Highlanders.</i>
Sandy Simpson
<i>I wis in the Terriers at Perth. Wi their Black Watch battalion. I wis mustered when war started, I went to my officer and told him I wanted back to my own lot in the Black Isle. I was granted my wish and sent back up north to join the 4th Seaforth Highlanders at that time still at Nigg. I wis only 14 years old.</i>
Robert Moore.
Ground conditions
<i>We meevied up through the soss o dubs and shell holes and the oistly o watter that wis Passchendale wid. We were jist livin like rats in the grun.</i>
Jimmy Milne, 2 nd Gordons.
<i>Ye couldna traivel for the dubs: ye couldna pit ae fit by the ither for the clort. What a sotter aathin was in. We tried aye tae redd up the trenches.</i>
Jimmy Reid.
<i>It cam on rain fin it staired an oh it was terrible – ye wis widin up tae yer knees in goor. The trenches were fu o watter an it wis clay grun makkin it a helluva job gan aboot.</i>
Charles Smith.
<i>Wi dubs up tae ma kweets.</i>
A. Chapman.
<i>I aye mind fin we occupied trenches that wis fu o deed. Wi the shellin they were maistly aa covered wi earth faain in, but we kent wi the spring in wer feet that it wis bodies we were stannin on. We culdna meeve fer dubs there.</i>
Alec Barlow.
Fighting
<i>Gan ower, I took shelter fae machine gun fire in an orchard among heaps o muck. Fin I lookit at the idder folk on the grun – there wis naebody livin – they were aa deid.</i>
Jimmy Reid, 6 th Gordon Highlanders.
<i>I flapp'et (lay down flat) and keepit ma heid doon. There wis another lad at my side and he rase up tae get a pirk (shot) at them. I says tull him, 'Dinna dee that – keep yer heed doon in to the grun'. Na na! he rase yp an shot aff a roon, but nae mair that wis him feenished'.</i>
John Rennie, 5 th Gordon Highlanders
Lice
<i>The lice wis affa – we never got clear o them.</i>
Harry Nicoll, Royal Engineers.
<i>Ae trick wis tae rub wir claes wi creosote – bit aat burned like hell.</i>
Alec Nichol, 7 th Gordon Highlanders

I eenced ti (used to) tak a canle up the seams and ye could hear em crackin again.

Peter Baigrie, 6th Black Watch.

Kilts

In the Winter time we eence (used) to tie sandbags roon wer knees to hud the kilt on rubbin. The tail o't got frozen and kept rub-rubbin roon the knees: it wis an affa job!

Alec HcHardy, 7th Gordon Highlanders.

Scots words used by the soldiers about life in the trenches:

<i>barbit weer</i>	<i>brae</i>	<i>brunt</i>	<i>clort</i>	<i>grun</i>	<i>dugout</i>
<i>dubs</i>	<i>dubby</i>	<i>droned</i>	<i>goorhole</i>	<i>howe</i>	<i>lair</i>
<i>larripin</i>	<i>loupin</i>	<i>midden</i>	<i>mossin</i>	<i>naewye</i>	<i>plappering</i>
<i>plouterin</i>	<i>plitered</i>	<i>poosaned</i>	<i>reek</i>	<i>redd up</i>	<i>reemin fu</i>
<i>rummle</i>	<i>scrattit</i>	<i>sharn</i>	<i>shot</i>	<i>sooss</i>	<i>sotter</i>