

THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE

THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE: THE BATTLE THAT SHAPED HISTORY

THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE, A NAME THAT ECHOES THROUGH THE ANNALS OF WORLD WAR I AS A SYMBOL OF RELENTLESS STRUGGLE AND DEVASTATING SACRIFICE. THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE, ALSO KNOWN AS THE THIRD BATTLE OF YPRES, WAS ONE OF THE BLOODIEST AND MOST CONTROVERSIAL CONFLICTS OF THE GREAT WAR. STRETCHING FROM JULY TO NOVEMBER 1917, THIS BATTLE TOOK PLACE IN THE MUDDY FIELDS OF BELGIUM AND LEFT AN INDELIBLE MARK ON MILITARY HISTORY AND COLLECTIVE MEMORY. BUT WHY DID IT EARN SUCH A GRIM REPUTATION? WHAT MADE PASSCHENDAELE STAND OUT AMONG THE MANY BRUTAL ENCOUNTERS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR? LET'S DELVE INTO THE STORY BEHIND THIS INFAMOUS BATTLE AND EXPLORE ITS SIGNIFICANCE.

THE CONTEXT OF PASSCHENDAELE: SETTING THE STAGE

THE FIRST WORLD WAR WAS A CONFLICT DEFINED BY TRENCH WARFARE, STALEMATES, AND ATTRITION. BY 1917, THE WESTERN FRONT HAD BECOME A GRIM TABLEAU OF ENDLESS MUD, BARBED WIRE, AND FORTIFIED ENEMY LINES. THE ALLIES WERE EAGER TO BREAK THROUGH GERMAN DEFENSES TO RELIEVE PRESSURE ON THE FRENCH FORCES AND TO OPEN UP A NEW FRONT. THIS AMBITION SET THE SCENE FOR THE BATTLE THEY CALLED PASSCHENDAELE.

WHY PASSCHENDAELE? THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

THE VILLAGE OF PASSCHENDAELE, LOCATED NEAR YPRES IN BELGIUM, WAS A STRATEGIC POSITION BECAUSE IT OVERLOOKED THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE. CAPTURING PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE MEANT THE ALLIES COULD THREATEN GERMAN SUBMARINE BASES ON THE BELGIAN COAST AND PUSH THE FRONT LINE CLOSER TO GERMANY'S INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND. HOWEVER, THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE REGION WAS UNFORGIVING. LOW-LYING FARMLAND, CRISSCROSSED WITH DRAINAGE DITCHES, WAS PRONE TO FLOODING, ESPECIALLY DURING HEAVY RAINS.

THE BATTLE UNFOLDS: A CAMPAIGN OF MUD AND MAYHEM

THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE NOT JUST FOR THE LOCATION BUT ALSO FOR THE HORRENDOUS CONDITIONS SOLDIERS ENDURED. FROM THE OUTSET, THE BATTLE WAS PLAGUED BY RELENTLESS RAIN, WHICH TRANSFORMED THE BATTLEFIELD INTO A QUAGMIRE. TANKS BECAME IMMOBILIZED IN THE MUD, ARTILLERY SHELLS SANK WITHOUT EXPLODING, AND SOLDIERS STRUGGLED TO KEEP THEIR FOOTING AMID KNEE-DEEP WATER AND MUCK.

LIVING CONDITIONS AND CHALLENGES FACED BY SOLDIERS

THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TOLL ON THE TROOPS WAS IMMENSE. SOLDIERS ON BOTH SIDES CONTENDED WITH:

- CONSTANT SHELLFIRE AND ARTILLERY BARRAGES THAT DESTROYED TRENCHES AND OBLITERATED COVER.
- THE EVER-PRESENT MUD, WHICH MADE MOVEMENT SLOW AND EXHAUSTING.
- DISEASE AND TRENCH FOOT, CAUSED BY PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO WET AND UNSANITARY CONDITIONS.
- SCARCITY OF SUPPLIES AND THE DIFFICULTY OF EVACUATING WOUNDED PERSONNEL.

THESE FACTORS COMBINED TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT WAS AS MUCH AN ENEMY AS THE OPPOSING FORCES THEMSELVES.

THE ROLE OF ARTILLERY AND TACTICS

ARTILLERY WAS THE BACKBONE OF WORLD WAR I COMBAT, AND AT PASSCHENDAELE, IT PLAYED A DECISIVE YET DEVASTATING ROLE. THE MASSIVE PRELIMINARY BOMBARDMENTS WERE INTENDED TO DESTROY GERMAN DEFENSES, BUT THE EFFECTIVENESS WAS LIMITED BY THE WEATHER AND TERRAIN. MOREOVER, GERMAN COUNTER-BARRAGE TACTICS OFTEN CAUGHT ADVANCING ALLIED TROOPS IN DEADLY CROSSFIRE. THE CREEPING BARRAGE, A TACTIC WHERE ARTILLERY FIRE MOVED FORWARD IN STAGES JUST AHEAD OF THE INFANTRY, WAS USED EXTENSIVELY BUT STRUGGLED AGAINST THE MUDDY LANDSCAPE.

THE HUMAN COST: WHY THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE

THE STAGGERING CASUALTIES ARE A CENTRAL REASON PASSCHENDAELE REMAINS ETCHED IN HISTORY. ESTIMATES SUGGEST THAT THE ALLIES SUFFERED OVER 200,000 CASUALTIES, WHILE GERMAN LOSSES WERE SIMILARLY SEVERE. DESPITE THESE HORRIFIC NUMBERS, TERRITORIAL GAINS WERE MINIMAL—ONLY A FEW KILOMETERS IN SOME SECTORS.

STORIES OF HEROISM AND SURVIVAL

AMID THE CARNAGE, COUNTLESS STORIES OF BRAVERY AND RESILIENCE EMERGED. SOLDIERS FACED NOT ONLY ENEMY FIRE BUT THE ELEMENTS, AND MANY PERFORMED EXTRAORDINARY ACTS UNDER UNIMAGINABLE PRESSURE. THESE PERSONAL ACCOUNTS HAVE BECOME A VITAL PART OF HOW WE REMEMBER PASSCHENDAELE TODAY, OFTEN HIGHLIGHTING THE HUMAN SPIRIT IN THE FACE OF MECHANIZED SLAUGHTER.

COMMEMORATION AND LEGACY

THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE, AND TODAY, THE NAME IS SYNONYMOUS WITH SACRIFICE AND THE FUTILITY OF WAR. MEMORIALS STAND AT THE SITE TO HONOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT AND DIED, INCLUDING THE PASSCHENDAELE MEMORIAL IN BELGIUM AND SEVERAL CANADIAN MONUMENTS COMMEMORATING THE SIGNIFICANT ROLE CANADIAN FORCES PLAYED IN THE BATTLE.

PASSCHENDAELE IN POPULAR CULTURE AND HISTORICAL DEBATE

OVER THE DECADES, THE BATTLE HAS BEEN EXAMINED EXTENSIVELY BY HISTORIANS, FILMMAKERS, AND AUTHORS. IT HAS SERVED AS A POWERFUL SUBJECT FOR EXPLORING THE HORRORS OF TRENCH WARFARE AND THE BROADER IMPLICATIONS OF WORLD WAR I.

DOCUMENTARIES, FILMS, AND LITERATURE

PASSCHENDAELE HAS INSPIRED NUMEROUS WORKS THAT SEEK TO CAPTURE THE EXPERIENCE OF SOLDIERS AND THE GRIM REALITIES OF THE FRONT. NOTABLE EXAMPLES INCLUDE DOCUMENTARIES LIKE THE BBC'S DETAILED ANALYSES AND FILMS SUCH AS THE CANADIAN PRODUCTION "PASSCHENDAELE" (2008), WHICH DRAMATIZES THE BATTLE THROUGH THE EYES OF CANADIAN TROOPS.

CONTROVERSIES AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

HISTORIANS CONTINUE TO DEBATE THE STRATEGIC NECESSITY AND LEADERSHIP DECISIONS THAT LED TO THE OFFENSIVE. SOME ARGUE THAT THE BATTLE WAS A TRAGIC WASTE OF LIVES, WHILE OTHERS SUGGEST IT WAS A CRITICAL STEP IN WEARING DOWN GERMAN FORCES. THIS ONGOING DISCOURSE HIGHLIGHTS HOW THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE NOT JUST AS A BATTLE NAME BUT AS A SYMBOL OF THE COMPLEX AND OFTEN TRAGIC NATURE OF WARFARE.

LESSONS FROM PASSCHENDAELE: WHAT HISTORY TEACHES US

REFLECTING ON PASSCHENDAELE OFFERS VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO MILITARY STRATEGY, LEADERSHIP, AND THE HUMAN DIMENSION OF COMBAT. IT UNDERSCORES THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING TERRAIN, WEATHER, AND LOGISTICS IN WARFARE. MOREOVER, IT REMINDS US OF THE DEEP COSTS OF WAR AND THE NEED TO HONOR THOSE WHO ENDURE ITS HARDSHIPS.

APPLYING HISTORICAL INSIGHTS TODAY

MODERN MILITARY PLANNERS STUDY PASSCHENDAELE TO BETTER APPRECIATE THE CHALLENGES OF COMBINED ARMS OPERATIONS AND THE INTEGRATION OF INFANTRY, ARTILLERY, AND ARMOR. BEYOND MILITARY LESSONS, PASSCHENDAELE SERVES AS A SOMBER REMINDER FOR POLICYMAKERS ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF PROLONGED CONFLICT AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PURSUING PEACE.

THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE—A NAME THAT CONTINUES TO RESONATE AS A TESTAMENT TO COURAGE AMIDST CHAOS AND THE ENDURING IMPACT OF ONE OF WORLD WAR I'S MOST HARROWING BATTLES. THROUGH REMEMBRANCE AND STUDY, WE KEEP ALIVE THE STORIES OF THOSE WHO FACED THE MUD, THE BULLETS, AND THE HORROR, ENSURING THEIR SACRIFICES ARE NEVER FORGOTTEN.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS 'THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE' ABOUT?

'THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE' IS A CANADIAN WAR FILM THAT DEPICTS THE EXPERIENCES OF CANADIAN SOLDIERS DURING THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE IN WORLD WAR I, FOCUSING ON THE PERSONAL AND EMOTIONAL STRUGGLES OF THE PROTAGONIST.

WHO DIRECTED 'THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE'?

THE FILM WAS DIRECTED BY PAUL GROSS, WHO IS ALSO KNOWN FOR HIS WORK IN CANADIAN TELEVISION AND CINEMA.

WHEN WAS 'THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE' RELEASED?

THE FILM WAS RELEASED IN 2017.

WHAT HISTORICAL EVENT DOES 'THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE' PORTRAY?

THE MOVIE PORTRAYS THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE, A SIGNIFICANT AND BRUTAL BATTLE DURING WORLD WAR I THAT TOOK PLACE IN 1917.

IS 'THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE' BASED ON TRUE EVENTS?

YES, THE FILM IS INSPIRED BY TRUE EVENTS AND PERSONAL STORIES FROM WORLD WAR I, PARTICULARLY FOCUSING ON THE

WHAT THEMES ARE EXPLORED IN 'THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE'?

THE FILM EXPLORES THEMES SUCH AS THE HORRORS OF WAR, SACRIFICE, PATRIOTISM, TRAUMA, AND THE RESILIENCE OF SOLDIERS DURING WORLD WAR I.

WHERE WAS 'THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE' PRIMARILY FILMED?

THE MOVIE WAS PRIMARILY FILMED IN CANADA, INCLUDING LOCATIONS IN ALBERTA, TO AUTHENTICALLY DEPICT THE WORLD WAR I BATTLEFIELDS.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE: AN IN-DEPTH EXAMINATION OF ONE OF WORLD WAR I'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL BATTLES

THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE, A NAME THAT EVOKES IMAGES OF RELENTLESS MUD, STAGGERING CASUALTIES, AND THE FUTILITY OF WAR. THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE, ALSO KNOWN AS THE THIRD BATTLE OF YPRES, REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST INFAMOUS AND HEAVILY SCRUTINIZED EPISODES OF WORLD WAR I. FOUGHT BETWEEN JULY AND NOVEMBER 1917, THIS BATTLE EPITOMIZED THE BRUTAL NATURE OF TRENCH WARFARE ON THE WESTERN FRONT AND HAS SINCE BECOME A SYMBOL OF BOTH HEROIC SACRIFICE AND QUESTIONABLE MILITARY STRATEGY. THIS ARTICLE DELVES INTO THE COMPLEXITIES SURROUNDING PASSCHENDAELE, ANALYZING ITS STRATEGIC INTENT, BATTLEFIELD CONDITIONS, CONSEQUENCES, AND HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION.

THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT OF PASSCHENDAELE

TO UNDERSTAND WHY THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE, ONE MUST FIRST EXPLORE THE STRATEGIC MOTIVES BEHIND THE BATTLE. THE ALLIES, PARTICULARLY THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE UNDER GENERAL SIR DOUGLAS HAIG, SOUGHT TO BREAK THROUGH GERMAN LINES IN FLANDERS, BELGIUM, AIMING TO CAPTURE THE VILLAGE OF PASSCHENDAELE AND SECURE THE RIDGES SOUTH AND EAST OF YPRES. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WAS TO WEAKEN THE GERMAN ARMY, DIVERT TROOPS FROM THE FRENCH FRONT, AND POTENTIALLY OPEN A ROUTE TO THE BELGIAN COAST TO DISRUPT GERMAN SUBMARINE BASES.

THE BATTLE WAS INITIATED IN THE CONTEXT OF A BROADER ALLIED OFFENSIVE STRATEGY IN 1917, WHICH INCLUDED THE FRENCH NIVELLE OFFENSIVE AND THE BRITISH-LED ARRAS OFFENSIVE. HOWEVER, THE TERRAIN CHOSEN FOR PASSCHENDAELE WAS NOTORIOUSLY CHALLENGING. THE REGION'S LOW-LYING TOPOGRAPHY WAS PRONE TO FLOODING, AND THE RELENTLESS SUMMER RAINS TURNED THE BATTLEFIELD INTO A QUAGMIRE, DRASTICALLY AFFECTING MOBILITY AND COMBAT OPERATIONS.

KEY MILITARY OBJECTIVES AND OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

THE OFFENSIVE AIMED TO SEIZE THE HIGH GROUND OF THE PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE, THEREBY GAINING A TACTICAL ADVANTAGE AND FACILITATING FURTHER ADVANCES INTO OCCUPIED BELGIUM. HOWEVER, THE GERMAN DEFENDERS WERE WELL ENTRENCHED, EMPLOYING SOPHISTICATED DEFENSIVE TACTICS INCLUDING CONCRETE PILLBOXES, DEEP BUNKERS, AND EXTENSIVE BARBED WIRE NETWORKS.

OPERATIONALLY, THE BRITISH AND THEIR COMMONWEALTH ALLIES FACED NUMEROUS CHALLENGES:

- **METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS:** HEAVY RAINFALL TRANSFORMED THE BATTLEFIELD INTO A MUD-SOAKED MORASS, SEVERELY HINDERING INFANTRY MOVEMENT AND ARTILLERY DEPLOYMENT.
- **LOGISTICAL CONSTRAINTS:** MAINTAINING SUPPLY LINES OVER WATERLOGGED GROUND WAS A LOGISTICAL NIGHTMARE, IMPAIRING THE RESUPPLY OF AMMUNITION, FOOD, AND MEDICAL AID.

- **TECHNOLOGICAL LIMITATIONS:** ARTILLERY BARRAGES, WHILE INTENSE, OFTEN FAILED TO DESTROY GERMAN FORTIFICATIONS OR CUT BARBED WIRE EFFECTIVELY.

THESE FACTORS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROTRACTED NATURE OF THE BATTLE AND THE STAGGERING CASUALTY FIGURES THAT ENSUED.

THE HUMAN COST AND BATTLEFIELD CONDITIONS

THE PHRASE “THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE” OFTEN CONJURES IMAGES OF MUD-FILLED TRENCHES, SOLDIERS WADING THROUGH KNEE-DEEP WATER, AND THE HARROWING STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL IN ONE OF THE MOST INHOSPITABLE ENVIRONMENTS OF THE WAR. THE BATTLE’S CONDITIONS WERE EXACERBATED BY THE RELENTLESS RAIN, WHICH TURNED SHELL CRATERS INTO DEEP POOLS AND MADE THE GROUND TREACHEROUS.

CASUALTY ESTIMATES VARY, BUT IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT THE ALLIES SUFFERED APPROXIMATELY 275,000 TO 300,000 CASUALTIES, WHILE GERMAN LOSSES WERE AROUND 220,000 TO 250,000. THESE FIGURES REFLECT NOT ONLY THE FEROCITY OF COMBAT BUT ALSO THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS.

TRENCH WARFARE AND THE TERRAIN’S ROLE

PASSCHENDAELE IS OFTEN CITED AS A GRIM EXAMPLE OF THE STALEMATE CHARACTERISTIC OF TRENCH WARFARE. THE SOLDIERS ENDURED:

- **EXPOSURE TO THE ELEMENTS:** CONSTANT RAIN AND COLD LED TO TRENCH FOOT, HYPOTHERMIA, AND WIDESPREAD DISEASE.
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL STRAIN:** THE RELENTLESS SHELLING AND THE SIGHT OF COMRADES SUCCUMBING TO THE MUD AND GUNFIRE INFLICTED DEEP MENTAL SCARS.
- **LIMITED MOBILITY:** THE MUD IMMOBILIZED MEN, HORSES, AND VEHICLES, TURNING MOVEMENT INTO A PERILOUS ENDEAVOR.

SUCH CONDITIONS MAGNIFIED THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND COMPLICATED OPERATIONAL EFFORTS, AFFECTING TROOP MORALE AND EFFECTIVENESS.

CONTROVERSY AND HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION

OVER THE DECADES, THE BATTLE OF PASSCHENDAELE HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF INTENSE DEBATE AMONG HISTORIANS, MILITARY ANALYSTS, AND THE PUBLIC. THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE NOT ONLY AS A GEOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE BUT ALSO AS A CAUTIONARY EMBLEM OF MILITARY MISJUDGMENT.

CRITICS ARGUE THAT THE BATTLE EPITOMIZED THE FUTILITY AND WASTEFULNESS OF WORLD WAR I OFFENSIVES. GENERAL HAIG, IN PARTICULAR, HAS BEEN SCRUTINIZED FOR HIS PERSISTENCE IN PURSUING THE OFFENSIVE DESPITE MOUNTING CASUALTIES AND DIMINISHING RETURNS. SOME HISTORIANS SUGGEST THAT THE STRATEGIC VALUE OF THE OFFENSIVE DID NOT JUSTIFY THE ENORMOUS EXPENDITURE OF LIFE AND RESOURCES.

CONVERSELY, DEFENDERS OF HAIG CONTENT THAT THE BATTLE WAS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON GERMAN FORCES AND THAT IT CONTRIBUTED TO WEAKENING THE ENEMY’S CAPACITY TO RESIST LATER ALLIED OFFENSIVES. THEY EMPHASIZE THE EVENTUAL CAPTURE OF PASSCHENDAELE RIDGE AS A TACTICAL VICTORY THAT, WHILE COSTLY, PLAYED A ROLE IN THE BROADER ATTRITIONAL STRATEGY.

LESSONS LEARNED AND MILITARY EVOLUTION

THE EXPERIENCE OF PASSCHENDAELE INFLUENCED SUBSEQUENT MILITARY DOCTRINES AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING:

- **IMPROVED ARTILLERY COORDINATION:** THE BATTLE HIGHLIGHTED THE NEED FOR MORE PRECISE AND EFFECTIVE ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS.
- **ENHANCED MOBILITY TACTICS:** RECOGNITION OF THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY TERRAIN LED TO INNOVATIONS IN MECHANIZED TRANSPORT AND ENGINEERING SUPPORT.
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL PREPAREDNESS:** THE MENTAL TOLL ON SOLDIERS INFORMED LATER APPROACHES TO TROOP WELFARE AND REST CYCLES.

THESE ADAPTATIONS FORESHADOWED THE MORE MOBILE AND COMBINED ARMS OPERATIONS THAT WOULD CHARACTERIZE LATER STAGES OF THE WAR AND SUBSEQUENT CONFLICTS.

PASSCHENDAELE IN POPULAR MEMORY AND CULTURE

THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE NOT ONLY IN MILITARY ANNALS BUT ALSO IN LITERATURE, FILM, AND COLLECTIVE MEMORY. THE BATTLE HAS BEEN MEMORIALIZED IN POEMS, NOVELS, AND DOCUMENTARIES, SERVING AS A SOMBER REMINDER OF THE HORRORS OF INDUSTRIALIZED WARFARE.

COMMEMORATIONS SUCH AS THE PASSCHENDAELE MEMORIAL IN BELGIUM HONOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IN THE MUDDY FIELDS. MEANWHILE, THE PHRASE ITSELF HAS ENTERED POPULAR DISCOURSE AS SHORTHAND FOR ANY COSTLY, PROTRACTED, AND SEEMINGLY FUTILE ENDEAVOR.

MODERN PERSPECTIVES AND ONGOING RESEARCH

CONTEMPORARY SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUES TO REASSESS THE BATTLE, UTILIZING NEW ARCHIVAL MATERIALS, BATTLEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGY, AND TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS LIKE GIS MAPPING TO BETTER UNDERSTAND TROOP MOVEMENTS AND BATTLEFIELD DYNAMICS. THIS ONGOING RESEARCH ENRICHES THE HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, PROVIDING NUANCED PERSPECTIVES THAT TRANSCEND THE TRADITIONAL HEROIC OR TRAGIC DICHOTOMIES.

IN SUM, THEY CALLED IT PASSCHENDAELE BECAUSE THE NAME ENCAPSULATES A COMPLEX SAGA OF COURAGE AMID CALAMITY, STRATEGIC AMBITION TANGLED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ADVERSITY, AND THE ENDURING QUEST TO COMPREHEND ONE OF THE GREAT WAR'S MOST EMBLEMATIC STRUGGLES.

[They Called It Passchendaele](#)

they called it passchendaele: They Called it Passchendaele Lyn Macdonald, 1979

they called it passchendaele: They Called it Passchendaele Lyn MACDONALD, 1990

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they called it passchendaele: *They Called it Passchendaele : the Story of The...* Lyn

Macdonald,

they called it passchendaele: The Great War Isobel Charman, 2014-07-31 During the First World War three quarters of a million British people died – a figure so huge that it feels impossible

to give it a human context. Consequently we struggle to truly grasp the impact this devastating conflict must have had on people's day-to-day lives. We resort to looking at the war from a distance, viewing its events in terms of their political or military significance. *The Great War: The People's Story* is different. Like the all-star ITV series it accompanies, it immerses the reader in the everyday experiences of real people who lived through the war. Using letters, diaries, and memoirs – many of which have never previously been published – Isobel Charman has painstakingly reconstructed the lives of people such as separated newly-weds Alan and Dorothy Lloyd, plucky enlisted factory-worker Reg Evans and proudly independent suffragist Kate Parry Frye. A century on, they here tell their stories in their own words, offering a uniquely personal account of the conflict. *The Great War: The People's Story* is both a meticulously researched piece of narrative history and a deeply moving remembrance of the extraordinary acts of extremely ordinary people.

they called it passchendaele: *We died in hell* Piet Chielens, 1993

they called it passchendaele: *They called it Passchendaele* Lyn MacDonald, 1979

they called it passchendaele: *The Blasphemer* Nigel Farndale, 2011-08-23 In the aftermath of a small plane crash that forced him to make a wrenching life-and-death choice, zoologist Daniel Kennedy confronts the fate of his great-grandfather during World War I and struggles to both prove himself and earn forgiveness. By the short-listed Whitbread Prize nominee of Hee-Haw.

they called it passchendaele: *Carnage and Courage* Page Wilson, 2015-11-03 *Carnage and Courage* is the story of an American woman's journey from upper-crust ingénue to a career in the US diplomatic corps. At President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's behest, Page Wilson left the US to serve in London with Ambassador Joseph Kennedy as he took up his post just before World War II began and the Blitz commenced. With the conflict in Europe already underway, Wilson, working with Kennedy, shares the grip of war with the men and women who are engaged against Germany. When the bombs finally fall on Britain, Kennedy sends Wilson back to America—fulfilling a promise he and Roosevelt made to keep her safe—where she anxiously awaits US involvement. Upon meeting the man she will marry, a combat pilot, her role begins to mirror that of so many women of war era—the struggle to maintain a home that is re-billeted constantly and the worry for her husband in combat. Wilson's journey starts with an appointment from the highest levels of government and continues along a path many young women would take as America fought to bring peace to the world. These women's lives are a shared battle through the years of the worst war the world has ever known, the years of struggle between Munich and Hiroshima, between certain death and brave survival, not only for the men and women under arms but for their wives and families back home as well.

they called it passchendaele: *We are the Dead* Larry Gray, 2000

they called it passchendaele: *100 Days to Victory: How the Great War Was Fought and Won 1914-1918* Saul David, Saul David Ltd, 2013-09-12 Saul David's 100 DAYS TO VICTORY is a totally original, utterly engaging account of the Great War - the first book to tell the story of the 'war to end all wars' through the events of one hundred key days between 1914 and 1918. 100 DAYS TO VICTORY is a 360 degree portrait of a global conflict that stretched east from the shores of Britain to the marshes of Iraq, and south from the forests of Russia to the bush of German South East Africa. Throughout his gripping narrative we hear the voices of men and women both eminent and ordinary, some who were spectators on the Home Front, others - including Saul David's own family - who were deeply embroiled in epic battles that changed the world forever. 100 DAYS TO VICTORY is the work of a great historian and supreme story teller. Most importantly, it is also an enthralling tribute to a generation whose sacrifice should never be forgotten.

they called it passchendaele: *The Missing of the Somme* Geoff Dyer, 2011-08-09 *The Missing of the Somme* is part travelogue, part meditation on remembrance—and completely, unabashedly, unlike any other book about the First World War. Through visits to battlefields and memorials, Geoff Dyer examines the way that photographs and film, poetry and prose determined—sometimes in advance of the events described—the way we would think about and remember the war. With his characteristic originality and insight, Dyer untangles and reconstructs the network of myth and memory that illuminates our understanding of, and relationship to, the

Great War.

they called it passchendaele: The Great War, 1914-1918 Spencer Tucker, 2002-01-04 An up-to-date and concise account of WWI for teachers and students looking for a balanced introduction. It details both the military operations as well as the development of war aims, alliance diplomacy and the war on the home front.

they called it passchendaele: Teachers at the Front, 1914-1919 Barry Blades, 2021-04-21 The story of the teachers who came by the thousands, from near and far, to join the British war effort. August 1914: Flags waved, people cheered, and armies mobilized. Millions throughout Britain responded to the call to arms. War fever was contagious. In the far reaches of empire, young men also pledged their allegiance and prepared to serve the king and his empire. Among the patriots who joined the colors were thousands of schoolmasters and trainee teachers. In London, students and alumni from the London Day Training College left their classrooms and took the king's shilling. In the dominions, hundreds of their professional counterparts in Perth, Auckland, and Toronto similarly reported to the military training grounds, donned uniforms, and embarked for the "old country" in its hour of need. This book tells their story. It recalls the decisions made by men who were united by their training, occupation, and imperial connections, but divided by social and geographical contexts and personal beliefs. It follows these teacher-soldiers as they landed on the beaches of Gallipoli, attacked across no man's land in Flanders, on the Somme, and at Passchendaele, and finally broke through the Hindenburg Line and secured victory. Many did not survive the carnage of what became known as the Great War. And for those who did, men who'd been proud to call themselves Tommies, Anzacs, Enzeds, and Canucks, coming home would present even more challenges and adjustments. "Highly recommended for . . . those who wish to learn more about the social and educational make up of British and Commonwealth forces in the Great War." —Argunners

they called it passchendaele: Great War Lives Paul Reed, 2011-06-13 The Great War was a key event of the twentieth century and it is one of the most popular and rewarding areas for historical research—and for family historians. More records than ever are available to researchers whose relatives served during the war, and Paul Reeds new book is the perfect guide to how to locate and understand these sources—and get the most out of them. In fascinating detail he follows the stories of twelve service men who fought and died in the Great War a rifleman, an infantry officer, a tunneller, a gunner, a Royal Marine, a naval rating, an airman, and others. He describes their wartime careers and shows how they fitted into the armed forces. He looks at what they did, at their lives in the front line, in the rear areas, on leave, and at the conditions they endured and the experiences they had. And he demonstrates how the research was done and how the lives of these individuals were reconstructed—the methods that were used, the sources that were consulted. Paul Reeds informative and accessible book will be essential reading and reference for anyone who wants to find out about the Great War and is keen to understand the part an ancestor played in it.

they called it passchendaele: The Literary Digest Edward Jewitt Wheeler, Isaac Kaufman Funk, William Seaver Woods, Arthur Stimson Draper, Wilfred John Funk, 1920

they called it passchendaele: Earth Matters Richard Bardgett, 2016-01-28 For much of history, soil has played a major, and often central, role in the lives of humans. Entire societies have risen, and collapsed, through the management or mismanagement of soil; farmers and gardeners worldwide nurture their soil to provide their plants with water, nutrients, and protection from pests and diseases; major battles have been aborted or stalled by the condition of soil; murder trials have been solved with evidence from the soil; and, for most of us, our ultimate fate is the soil. In this book, Richard Bardgett discusses soil and the many, and sometimes surprising, ways that humanity has depended on it throughout history, and still does today. Analysing the role soil plays in our own lives, despite increasing urbanization, and in the biogeochemical cycles that allow the planet to function effectively, Bardgett considers how superior soil management could combat global issues such as climate change, food shortages, and the extinction of species. Looking to the future, Bardgett argues that it is vital for the future of humanity for governments worldwide to halt soil degradation, and to put in place policies for the future sustainable management of soils.

they called it passchendaele: *Portraits of Battle* Peter Farrugia, Evan J. Habkirk, 2021-04-01 All Canadians are taught about Vimy Ridge. But that celebrated victory was just one battle among many to shape the country's experience of the First World War. *Portraits of Battle* brings together biography, battle accounts, and historiographical analysis to examine the lives of a cross-section of Canadians who served in the war. Contributors to this thoughtful collection consider the range of Canadians touched by war – soldiers and their loved ones, deserters, nurses, Indigenous people, those injured in body or mind – raising fundamental questions about the nature of conflict and memory. These portraits of the formerly faceless men and women honoured on war memorials fill in what is often missing from accounts of the Great War. In the process, they provide a more nuanced perspective on the complex legacy of that war in Canadian history.

they called it passchendaele: *The War Poems of Siegfried Sassoon* Siegfried Sassoon, 1919

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