

# Meanings of Military Service

## Learning Resources KS3

### The Front Line: Were the trenches all ‘mud and murder?’

These suggested activities are designed to provide support to teachers using our resources in the classroom.

#### Suggested sources:

Letter from Francis Grenfell addressed to his family 1914

Collection of ‘how to’ letters

Account of Lance Corporal Lomas’ escape from a German hospital

Princess Mary’s gift fund box 1914

Christmas postcard 1916

A safe place

German soldier holding shell

Percy Smith – death marches, dugout fires, moonrise on the Somme web, long and winding way

#### Suggested Activities:

1. Factual: what do these sources tell us about life on the front line? What do they not tell us? What do they add to what we already know about life at the front? What do you find surprising?

*[Inference activity – A3 sheet, three boxes – what can we definitely tell [centre] what can we probably tell [next box out] what might we infer from these sources [outer box]*

2. Percy Smith served in the Royal Marine Artillery on the Western Front 1916-1919. Does that make his sketches more useful or less useful? Why? Do they corroborate the evidence from the other sources, or not?
  
3. Utility: how useful are these sources as evidence of life on the front line during World War One? Group them in order – most useful to least useful. If you could only choose one source, which one would you choose? Why?
  
4. What conclusions can we draw about [a] archives, and [b] the front line, from these documents?