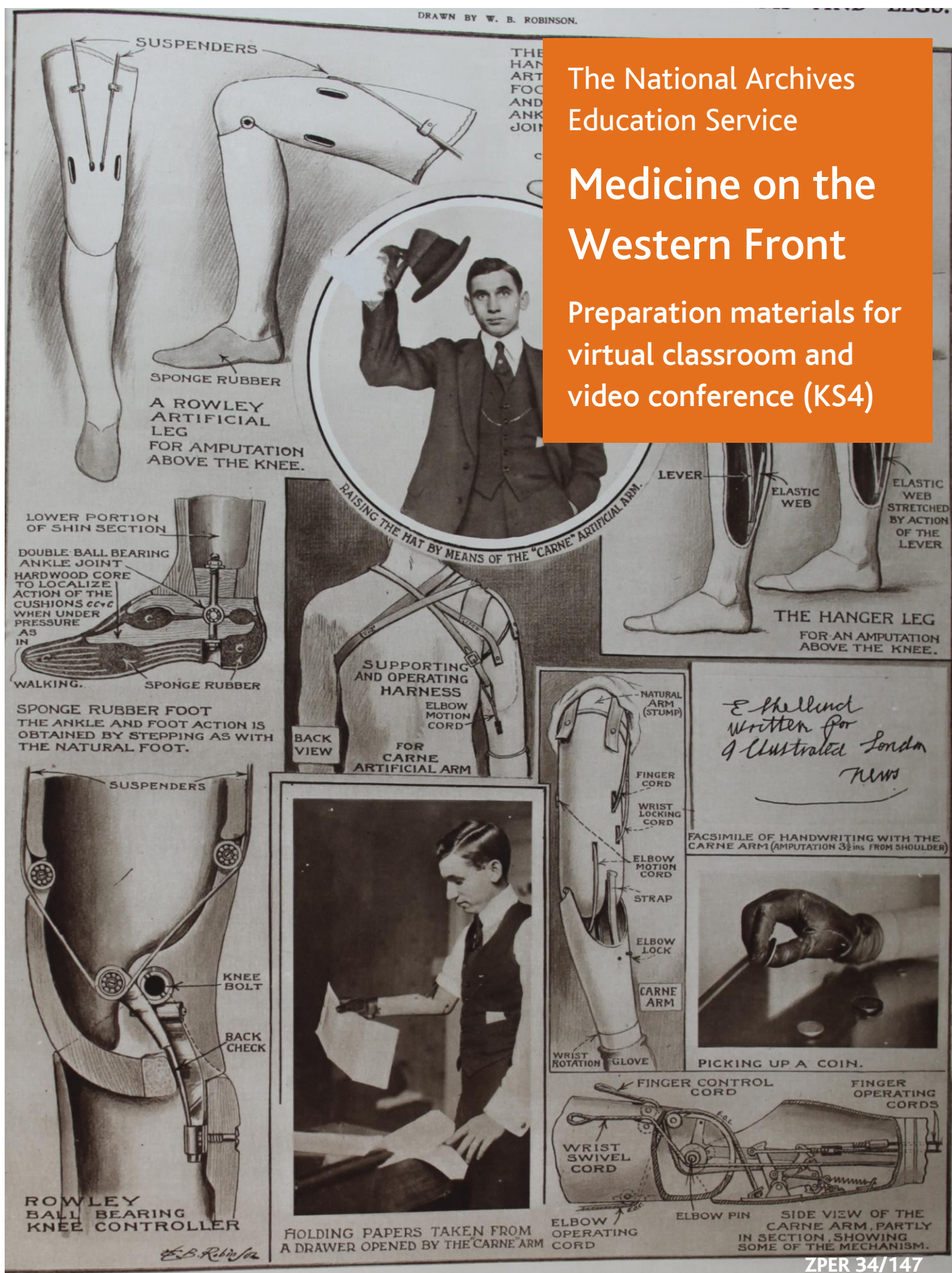


Medicine on the Western Front

Preparation materials for virtual classroom and video conference (KS4)



Contents

Teacher’s notes 3

Mystery Document: 4

Sorting Activity: 5

Document 1: 6

Document 2: 8

Document 3: 10

Teacher's notes

Students do not need to do any work in preparation for this virtual classroom. However, if there are students who have visual impairments and may have difficulty viewing the screen during the session, please enlarge copies of the documents for them to refer to.

Teacher Preparation

- Print out enough copies of the Mystery Document for the class.
- Print out the sorting activity (no need to cut out).
- Print out enough of Documents 1, 2 and 3 for the class (including their transcripts.) The class will be split into three groups, each looking at a different document.

Useful links

Further source material relating to Medicine on the Western Front can be found in a two part collection on The National Archives' website:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/medicine-on-the-western-front-part-one/>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/medicine-on-the-western-front-part-two/>

Letters of servicemen who enlisted from the Great Western Railway can be found in two collections on The National Archives' website:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/letters-first-world-war-1915>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/letters-first-world-war-1916-18/>

[Great War soldier's record](#) is a lesson for use in the classroom.



[Great War 1914- 1918](#) website on the themes of outbreak, experience, peacemaking and remembrance.

Mystery Document

Forms
I. 1237
10

515
Army Form I. 1237.

MEDICAL CASE SHEET.*

No. in Admission and Discharge Book	Regimental No.	Rank.	Surname.	Christian Name.
450	8594	Pte.	Routledge	E.
Year	Unit.		Age.	Service.
1915	7th Seaforth's L.I.		17	6 mos.
Station and Date.	Disease			
Outbreak				
18/11/15	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>cotton w Pin prick Heat & cold 18/11/15</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><u>Sensation</u></p> <p>anæsthetic to all forms of sensation joint, muscle & bone included</p> </div> </div>			
Bed				
No 2 Ban Staly				
Hop Boulogne				
29/11/15	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Heat & cold sensation returned anæsthesia to heat & cold</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><u>Sensation</u></p> <p>Pin prick cotton wool joint sensation returning - able to tell when a toe is moved & give direction it is moved in also he can't distinguish between left & right Heat & cold sensation returning feels cold more readily than heat Fetid 56°F to 130°F. - no sensation for heat or cold in toes of R foot + L 3 toes & foot.</p> </div> </div>			

* The first and last entries will be signed, and transfers from one Medical Officer to another, attested by their signatures.

W. P. Griffith & Sons Ltd., Printers, Old Bailey, E.C.

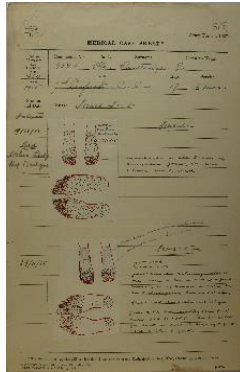
[250] W6545/622 50m 10/14v 5 89

[P.T.O.]

MH 106/2086

Sorting activity

1. A soldier's medical sheet completed by a doctor.



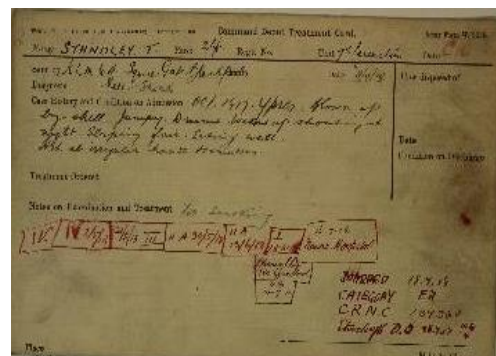
4. A panorama photograph of the trenches.



2. An interview with a soldier recorded thirty years after the war.



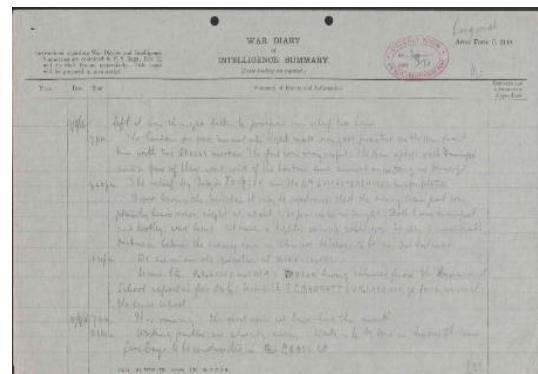
5. A field medical card filled in by a stretcher bearer.



3. A letter home from a soldier.



6. An army unit's war diary.



Document 1: MH106/2138

69

For Expeditionary Force Cases only. Army Form W. 3243A.

State from which Force Kf. M. C. Hospital Blackpool.
France Serial No. in A. & D. } T.F. 1535
 Book

Regt. (state if T.F.) 7th. Leicesters.
 Trp., Batty. or Coy. _____ Regtl. No. _____
 Rank _____
 Name Standley. J.
 Age 22 Total Service 3 1/2
 State Service with Field Force in Months 3 months.
 (Last period only if more than one)

(a) Date of arrival at Hospital as an admission _____
 (b) As a transfer (state where from) 28/1/17. 4th London General.
 Date of discharge to duty _____
 " " " by change of disease _____
 " " " as an invalid _____
 " " death _____
 " " transfer (state where to) 9/4/18. Comm Depot, Ripon.
 (Name of Hospital to be given) _____
 No. of days under treatment 102

Observations:—
 To be filled in by the Medical Officer in charge of case.
 Disease* Shell Shock.
 Operations _____
 Result of operation _____
 Complications in order of occurrence _____
Loss of sleep, Headaches, Tremors of hands & tongue.
Palpitation & Exaggerated reflexes.
Improvement under Electro massage
treatment, & able to walk 2 miles now.
No A.F. W 3118 received Cadogan

Signature of Medical Officer Capt. Rams
 *To be in accordance with the Official Nomenclature.

One of these Red cards is to be completed for every Expeditionary Force patient received into hospital. Black cards for U.K. troops.

(6297) Wt. W1151/H4035 750,000 5/17 McA & W Ltd (E1266) Forms/W.3243A/1

Transcript

For Expeditionary Forces Only.

Army Form W 3243 A.

K.L.M.C. Hospital Blackpool

State from which Force – France Serial No in A. & D. Book – T.F. 1535

Trp, Batty or Coy. – Regimental No. –

Rank: 2nd Lieutenant

Name: Standley .T.

Age: 22 Total Service: 3 2/12

State Service with Field Force in Months (last period only if more than one) 3 months

(a) Date of arrival at Hospital as an admission –

(b) As a transfer (state where from) 28/12/17 4th London General

Date of discharge to duty –

Date of discharge by change of disease –

Date of discharge as an invalid –

Date of death –

Date of transfer (state where to) 9/4/18 Comm Depot, Ripon.

No of days under treatment – 102

Observations: -

To be filled in by the Medical Officer in charge of case.

Disease: * Shell Shock

Operations:

Result of operation:

Complications in order of occurrence

Loss of sleep

Headaches, tremors of hands and tongue. Palpitations and Exaggerated reflexes.

Improvement under Electro Massage treatment, + able to walk 2 miles now.

No A.F. w2/18 received.

[Signatures]


Signature of Medical Officer

* To be in accordance with the Official Nomenclature

One of these Red cards is to be completed for every Expeditionary Force patient received into hospital. Black cards for U.K. troops.

(6297) Wt. W1151/H4035 750,000 5/17 McA & W Ltd (E1266) Forms/W. 3243 A/1

Document 2: WO399/98580

From. J. Standley 2nd Lt. 1/2/18 187451
 7th Batt Lieut. Regt.
 Imperial Hydro
 St. Annes on Sea
 To. The Secretary  War Office.
 F. 3. Dept.

Sir,
 I have the honour to
 forward this my application for a
 wound gratuity. I was blown up
 by a shell on Oct 10th causing
 me to be brought to England with
 Shock. I have been in Hospital
 4 months and my nerves are still
 very shaky. I am still suffering
 with pains in the Head, troubled sleep
 and Palpitation of the Heart.
 My first Medical Board was at
 4th London General Hosp. about 19/12/17
 my second at Kings Lancashire Military
 Convalescent Hosp. 22/1/18 when I was
 granted a further stay for treatment.
 I have the honour to be
 Sir
 Your Obedient Servant
 J. Standley 2nd Lt.

Transcript

From T. Standley 2Lt. 1/2/18
7th Battalion Leicester Regiment

187451

Imperial Hydro
St Annes on Sea

To the Secretary, War Office
F.3. Dept.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward this my application for a wound gratuity. I was blown up by a shell on October 10th causing me to be brought to England with Shock. I have been in Hospital 4 months and my nerves are still very shaky. I am still suffering with pains in the Head, troubled sleep and Palpitation of the Heart.

My first medical board was at 4th London General Hospital about 19/12/17 my second at Kings Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital 22/1/18 when I was granted a further stay for treatment.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your obedient servant

T. Standley. 2 Lt.

Document 3: WO32/4748

192

in/ wounded patients. Only in exceptional circumstances should cases be sent to the United Kingdom, as, for instance, men likely to be unfit for further service of any kind with the forces ~~in~~ the field. This policy should be widely known throughout the Force

Forms of Treatment.

o/ The establishment of an atmosphere of cure is the basis of all successful treatment, the personality of the physician is, therefore, of the greatest importance. While recognising that each individual case of war neurosis must be treated on its merits, the Committee are of opinion that good results will be obtained in the majority by the simplest forms of psycho-therapy, i.e., explanation, persuasion and suggestion, aided by such physical methods as baths, electricity and massage ~~though these act chiefly by suggestion~~. Rest of mind and body is essential in all cases.

The Committee are of opinion that the production of the hypnoidal state and deep hypnotic sleep, while beneficial as a means of conveying suggestions or eliciting forgotten experiences are useful in selected cases, but in the majority they are unnecessary and may even aggravate the symptoms for a time.

They do not recommend psycho-analysis in the Freudian sense.

In the state of convalescence, re-education and suitable occupation of an interesting nature are of great importance. If the patient is unfit for further military service, it is considered that every endeavour should be made to obtain for him suitable employment on his return to active life.

Return to the Fighting Line.

Soldiers should not be returned to the fighting line under the following conditions:—

- (1) If the symptoms of neurosis are of such a character that the soldier cannot be treated overseas with a view to subsequent useful employment.
- (2) If the breakdown is of such severity as to necessitate a long period of rest and treatment in the United Kingdom.
- (3) If the disability is anxiety neurosis of a severe type.
- (4) If the disability is a mental breakdown or psychosis requiring treatment in a mental hospital.

It is, however, considered that many of such cases could, after recovery, be usefully employed in some form of auxiliary military duty.

Cowardice, Desertion and Neurosis.

In many cases it is extremely difficult to distinguish cowardice from neurosis since in both fear is the chief causal

Transcript

Forms of Treatment

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Did you know?

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A free **Video Conference** session allows our Education Officers to teach through your projector, leading discussions and guiding students through activities based around original documents. All you need is a computer with a projector, webcam and microphone to set up this web-chat with us.

Our **Onsite Workshops** are available for free here at The National Archives and allow students to experience genuine original documents reflecting over 1000 years of history. From Elizabeth I's signature to the telegrams of the sinking Titanic, students love the wow-factor of being able to see real history on the desk in front of them.

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✉ education@nationalarchives.gov.uk

