

THE NATIONAL
WWI MUSEUM
AND MEMORIAL



"BRITISH CHAPLAIN WRITING HOME FOR TOMMY"

Online Collections Database, 1983.88.5, www.theworldwar.org/research/database. National WWI Museum and Memorial. Online.

WWI Chaplains-Providing Light in Darkness

Recommended Grade Levels: 7-12

Course/Content Area(s): Social Studies

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LESSON OVERVIEW:	The role of the chaplain in the military is to provide spiritual support, pastoral care and moral guidance to service members. Military chaplains did so much more and with little training during WWI. Many chaplains took it upon themselves to expand their duties into a more active role such as assisting medical practitioners and writing letters home on behalf of service members. With the aid of primary sources, this lesson focuses on the roles and responsibilities that chaplains took on in addition to providing spiritual support.
OBJECTIVES:	<i>Students will:</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss the impact that chaplains had on the service members that they served with. ● Identify and discuss the roles and responsibilities of military chaplains. ● Discuss what type of person it takes to be a military chaplain.
STANDARDS ALIGNMENT:	<p>National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) C3 Framework Standards:</p> <p>D2.Civ.2.6-8. Explain specific roles played by citizens (such as voters, jurors, taxpayers, members of the armed forces, petitioners, protesters and office-holders).</p> <p>D2.Geo.4.6-8. Explain how cultural patterns and economic decisions influence environments and the daily lives of people in both nearby and distant places.</p> <p>D2.His.4.6-8. Analyze multiple factors that influenced the perspectives of people during different historical eras.</p> <p>D2.His.15.6-8. Evaluate the relative influence of various causes of events and developments in the past.</p> <p>English Language Arts</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.3 Analyze how and why individuals, events or ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.4 Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.</p> <p>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.9 Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.</p>

	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.10 Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.
TIME NEEDED:	One Class Period
INTERDISCIPLINARY:	English Language Arts, Art History, American History
PRIOR KNOWLEDGE:	Causes and effects of World War I Life in the trenches Life of soldiers
MATERIALS NEEDED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Appendix A: Pre-Assessment ● Appendix B: Document Analysis Sheet ● Documents from WWI online database: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Postcard 1983.88.5 ○ Postcard 2005.98.423 ○ Photograph 2010.125.170 ○ Letter 1977.13.62 ● Appendix C: Graphic Organizers

LESSON
PRE-ASSESSMENT/INTRODUCTION/HOOK:
Students will complete a brief written pre-assessment (Appendix A) to determine their prior knowledge of World War I and the role of chaplains. Students should have some understanding of the First World War, particularly life in the trenches and the technological advancements that took place before and during the war. Before the lesson students should have been taught how to analyze primary and secondary sources.
DIRECTIONS:
Lesson Powerpoint After students complete the pre-assessment, the teacher will then direct students' attention to the picture of the chaplain conducting a service titled <i>Light in Dark Places</i> . Discussion Question: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What do you think is going on in this photograph? How do you know? ● Who is the man standing on the airplane? How do you know? ● Is the activity taking place in this photograph important to the participants? Who are the participants? How do you know? ● What is normally the appropriate setting for a ceremony such as this? ● Why is this ceremony taking place here? Is there anything unique to this ceremony? ● Is it necessary to have a chaplain in a war zone? Why or why not? ● What type of services would a member of the clergy perform? The teacher will then tell students that they will be looking at documents that will give them an idea of other jobs that chaplains took upon themselves to do.

Think-Pair-Share or Cooperative Learning

Provide students with copies at their table of the four documents listed in the materials and the document analysis sheet (Appendix B).

Analyze the documents with the members of your group. Based on your analysis of the documents and your knowledge of World War I, what do you think were the roles and responsibilities of military chaplains?

After students have analyzed the documents the teacher will review students findings as a class.

Discussion questions:

- Why did the British chaplain feel that he needed to help the soldier write the letter home for him?
- What kind of relationship do you think chaplains had with medical personnel? Why do you think there was a good working relationship between them?
- What kind of dangers do you think chaplains encountered?
- Why did chaplains feel that they should write a letter home to a family member when a soldier died? Why is that such a difficult thing to do?
- What kind of person does it take to be a chaplain?

POST-ASSESSMENT:

- Write a help-wanted job description for a military chaplain.
- Create a poster encouraging chaplains to enlist in the military.
- Create a postcard to commemorate the services provided by chaplains during WWI.

MODIFICATIONS/ACCOMMODATIONS

- Provide students with graphic organizers (Appendix C) if they need additional structure to help them break down and analyze the documents.
- Post Assessment: Allow students to choose one out of the three assignments.

Appendix B: World War I-Chaplains

Directions: Analyze the documents with the members of your group. Based on your analysis of the documents and your knowledge of World War I, what do you think were the roles and responsibilities of military chaplains? Make a list of what chaplains are doing in each document in the space provided. Be sure to include any additional inference you may be able to make.



118 Copyright reserved BRITISH CHAPLAIN WRITING HOME FOR "TOMMY" "The Mail" O'Brien Pennington

[Postcard 1983.88.5](#)

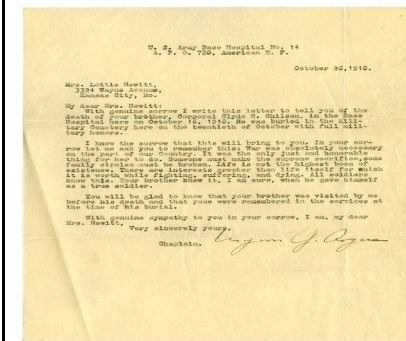


AUMONNIERS-ARMEE BELGE Per J. Baubler.

[Postcard 2005.98.423](#)



[Photograph 2010.125.170](#)



[Letter 1977.13.62](#)

Appendix C: Graphic Organizers

Analyze a Written Document

Step 1: Physical Observations	Step 2: Sourcing - Who?	Step 3: Purpose
<p>Date of the document</p> <p>Describe any special markings on the document.</p> <p>Is the document handwritten or typed? <input type="checkbox"/> handwritten <input type="checkbox"/> typed</p>	<p>Who wrote the document?</p> <p>How do you know?</p>	<p>Why was the document written? <input type="checkbox"/> inform <input type="checkbox"/> persuade <input type="checkbox"/> entertain <input type="checkbox"/> scare <input type="checkbox"/> other:</p> <p>Who do you think the audience was?</p>

Step 4: Context	Step 5: Details	Step 6: Emotions
<p>What things were different back then?</p> <p>What is happening or recently happened in the United States when the speech is given?</p>	<p>Important phrases</p> <p>Statements that you found interesting or shocking.</p>	<p>Words to describe how people felt when they read the document?</p> <p>How do you think people reacted?</p>

Analyze a Photograph

Step One: Captions	Step Two: Sourcing	Step Three: Observation
<p>Is there a caption or description?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If so, what does it say?</p>	<p>Where was the photo taken?</p> <p>When was this photo taken?</p> <p>Who took this photo?</p>	<p>What do you see?</p> <p>Write two words that describe the photo.</p> <p>1.</p> <p>2.</p>

Step Four: Context	Step Five: Purpose	Step Six: Beyond the Image
<p>What things were different back then?</p> <p>What were the people worried about or hoping for?</p>	<p>Why do you think someone decided to take this photograph?</p> <p>Who do you think saw this photo?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper readers</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> People browsing the internet</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> People watching the news</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The photographers friends and family members</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other...</p>	<p>What type of source is your photo?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Primary Source</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Source</p> <p>Where else could you find out more information about what is happening in your photo?</p>

Additional Resources:

Learn more about chaplains in WWI on the exhibition page [Sacred Service](#).

National WWI Museum and Memorial's 3D scans of objects in *Sacred Service*:

- Object ID: 2023.244.1
 - Chaplain's Stole: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/9th-field-hospital-chaplains-stole-dbb6366c01aa4a24943fbefb52bd43d7>
- Object ID: 2023.148.1
 - Field Communion Case: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/field-communion-set-dfa2bb0cb13c4ac481cff2f9326055cd>
- Object ID: 2023.146.2
 - Chaplain's Tunic: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/chaplain-c-w-mayfields-aef-tunic-b84e3d9a43cb4ad1b2cb5bd36059a0c2>
- Object ID: 2023.112.1
 - New Testament: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/the-new-testament-fbfe87efe0194a37a481dfd248134215>
- Object ID: 2023.104.1
 - Pyx: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/pyx-a61d7c1beddb4975a6548c2450156fb3>
- Object ID: 2023.103.1
 - Sacramental Oil Container: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/sacramental-oil-container-8264458e89224705ba33467475d770ce>
- Object ID: 1992.55.11
 - Prayer Book: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/abridged-prayer-book-for-jews-in-the-army-navy-51c6edf90d224fb6a4e9604404954ef9>
- Object ID: 2023.99.1-.3
 - Chaplain's Crucifix (Small): <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/chaplains-crucifix-d7e451cb83374a28a0aa4e3a0325d645>
- Object ID: 2023.79.1
 - Altar Crucifix: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/reserve-trench-altar-crucifix-2109ada9353b4c44add0e1ec2e9f8e07>
- Object ID: 2023.57.1a
 - Chaplain's Overseas Cap (previous but still good): <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/chaplains-aef-overseas-cap-934eb6602cda4b1995149b98af0ed772>
- Object ID: 2023.98.1-.2
 - Army Tunic and Pants: <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/royal-army-chaplains-dept-tunic-pants-b55bf917cb5c48048b7967502ff32fd9>