**Introduction to World War One through Primary Documents**

What is a Primary Document?

Your task is to visit the Veterans Affairs website (<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/first-world-war>) and examine a variety of primary documents from WWI. You will examine photographs, read a journal and listen to the stories of veterans of that war. As you view/listen to these documents, please take jot notes using the chart on the back.

Follow the instructions below to examine the following primary documents about World War One. Record your observations as jot notes on the chart provided on the back of this sheet.

**Photographs** – Scroll down to find *Battles and Campaigns*, Click on any one of the battles (Passchendaele, Somme, Vimy). On that page click on “Photo Gallery” under *History*. Observe the photos and make jot notes under the appropriate headings on the chart provided.

**Journal Entry** – After looking through the Photographs, return to the home page for WWI and on the task bar to the left of the page, scroll down and click on “Diaries, Letters and Stories”.

Under First World War and click on “First World War Journal and Poems of Pte. Frank Walker”. Read his Journal entry and make jot notes under the appropriate headings on the chart provided. **When you are done with Frank Walker, choose a second Journal entry and make jot notes on it.**

**Interviews:** After reading the Journal Entry, return to the home page for WWI and under *Video*, click on “Audio Archive”. Listen to the following interviews: “Mud”, “Artillery”, “Dogfights”, “Tanks”, “Observation Balloons” and “Gas Masks”. As you listen to each interview, make jot notes under the appropriate headings on the chart provided.

After viewing all of the primary documents, you are to answer the questions on the back of the page in the space provided. This sheet will be submitted and graded.

**Jot Notes for while you view the primary documents.**

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|  **Battles Mentioned** |  **Weapons used** |  **Overall conditions** |

Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper:

1. What adjectives would you use to describe the general battlefield conditions soldiers faced in WWI?
2. What did you find interesting/different/surprising about the weapons used in WWI?
3. Based on your observations, what do you believe would have been the most significant challenge for a Canadian soldier fighting in WWI?
4. If you could ask these veterans any questions, what would they be (minimum 3 questions)?
5. What are the benefits and drawbacks of using primary sources in history?