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Background Information: World War I Experience

Prior to entering combat, Canadian and allied troops typically received their military training in Great Britain. Until 1917, German zeppelins were used to bomb areas of England. The source below is a letter sent from Canadian Allan Hager to his sister on November 12th, 1915.

Featured Source:

Dear Sister:

...

We had a heavy loss last night, somewhere about seventeen men killed and about thirty wounded, out of our brigade. A German Zeppelin went over our lines. I just missed being one of the unfortunates by the skin of my teeth. All our guard was blown to atoms. It was my turn to be on guard, but as I was down at the ranges coaching for the 7th Brigade, I missed my turn. I saw the whole thing five minutes after it happened. It was all too terrible to mention. The men were shattered to a thousand pieces. It is just a taste of what it will be soon. You people over in Canada have not the slightest idea of how bad the war really is. Even here in England a person never knows when he is going to be killed. I have barely escaped two or three times now. I don't think I had better tell you any more this time.

The Canadians are making a great name for themselves over here. We all swore last night when we saw so many of our **comrades** killed that the Germans would get **no quarter** from the 5th Artillery Brigade. I will send you some souvenirs sometime soon.

Your brother Allan

Source: Allan Hager (1915), Letter to His Sister

Zeppelin: Series of military battles

Brigade: Distraction / Change

Comrades: Distraction / Change

No Quarter: Distraction / Change

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Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Your Task: Examine the inferences below and return to the text. Which inference is best supported by the source?

Alternative Inferences	
Person 1:	The letter suggests that the author has become detached and indifferent to the loss of his fellow soldiers and to the devastation of war.
Person 2	I think the letter shows how the devastation of war has taken a toll on him emotionally and worn him down.

Multiple Choice: Which inference is most plausible?

- a) Person 1's inference is most plausible
- b) Person 2's inference is most plausible
- c) Both Person 1 and Person 2's inferences are equally plausible
- d) Neither meaning is plausible

Short Answer Response: Explain your reasoning below.