

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Directions: After reading the background information and examining the source, answer the questions below.

**TO
THE
PAST**

Background Information: *Over 100,000 Canadian troops were assigned to the region of Passchendaele in 1917. Canadians eventually took the ridge that had been long-held by the Germans, but at the cost of nearly 16,000 lives.*

Featured Source:

The weather changed for the worse last night, although fortunately too late to **hamper** the execution of our plans. The rain was heavy and constant throughout the night. It was still beating down steadily when the day broke chill and cheerless, with a thick blanket of mist completely shutting off the battlefield. During the morning it **slackened** to a dismal drizzle, but by this time the roads, fields, and footways were covered with semi-liquid mud, and the torn ground beyond Ypres had become in places a horrible **quagmire**.

Source: Percival Phillips described the Battle of Passchendaele in the Daily Express (2nd August, 1917)

Hamper:

Hinder/Prevent

Slackened:

Lessened

Quagmire:

Bog/Swamp

Featured Source:

Floods of rain and a blanket of mist have doused and cloaked the whole of the Flanders plain. The newest shell-holes, already half-filled with soakage, are now flooded to the brim. The rain has so fouled this low, stoneless ground, **spoiled** of all natural drainage by shell-fire, that we experienced the double value of the early work, for today moving heavy material was extremely difficult and the men could scarcely walk in full equipment, much less dig. Every man was soaked through and was standing or sleeping in a marsh. It was a work of energy to keep a rifle in a state fit to use.

Source: William Beach Thomas, Daily Mail (2nd August, 1917)

Spoiled: *Ruined*

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Multiple Choice: Which of the following conclusions can be corroborated using both of the featured sources?

- a) The battlefield conditions during the Battle of Passchendaele made military operations challenging.
- b) The heavy rain and mist caused the soldiers to become discouraged and leave the front lines.
- c) The Battle of Passchendaele was a great victory for Canadian soldiers.
- d) The area of Passchendaele experienced significant rain at the beginning of August 1917.

Short Answer Response: Explain your reasoning below.