

THE BATTLE OF THE

SOMME



**Creative
Centenaries**

The story of
William McFadzean VC

Key Stage Two Learning Resource



BILLY JOINED THE 14TH BATTALION OF THE ROYAL IRISH RIFLES, A PART OF THE 36TH ULSTER DIVISION MADE UP PRIMARILY OF UVF MEMBERS FROM ULSTER...



NOT LONG UNTIL WE SEE BATTLE NOW...

THEY LEFT FOR THE FRONT LINE IN OCTOBER 1915...



I HOPE IT DOESN'T END BY THE TIME WE GET THERE!

I'VE BEEN TRAINING AND WAITING SO LONG.

YOU'RE SERIOUS?



YOU'RE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS, AREN'T YOU, BILLY?

OF COURSE!

I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE I COULDN'T GET A JOB!



WE COULDN'T STAND BACK AS OUR GREAT NEIGHBOURS WENT OFF TO WAR. COULD WE?

AND BY SHOWING OUR LOYALTY TO BRITAIN WE HOPE THEY WILL REWARD US BY GETTING RID OF THE NOTION OF HOME RULE.

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!



I'M HERE FOR THE ADVENTURE...

TO TRAVEL AND SEE THE WORLD...

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU GET TO DO THAT!

I JUST WANT TO GET A GUN AND SEE WHAT WAR IS LIKE...



YOU ALL BELONG IN THE ASYLUM!

BILLY AND HIS BATTALION WERE SHIPPED TO THE FRONTLINE ALONG WITH THOUSANDS OF OTHER MEN...



SO, THIS IS WHAT WE SIGNED UP FOR?

A DIRTY OLD FIELD...

...I COULD'VE STAYED AT HOME FOR THAT!



...NO... PLEASE... BOMBS... EXPLODING!

...NO... DEATH... PLEASE, GOD, GET ME OUT OF HERE!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?

SHELL SHOCK!



LOOK! MORE UNLUCKY MEN.

THEY'RE THE LUCKY ONES...

...ALIVE AND GOING HOME!



WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

I ALWAYS THOUGHT WAR WOULD LOOK MORE...

GLAMOROUS!



THIS PLACE IS HELL.



YOU THINK THIS IS HELL?

THIS IS QUIET.

WAIT UNTIL THE SHELLS START RAINING DOWN!

THEN IT'S HELL ON EARTH!





ARMED WITH GRENADES,
BILLY WAS PREPARED TO
GO OVER THE TOP...





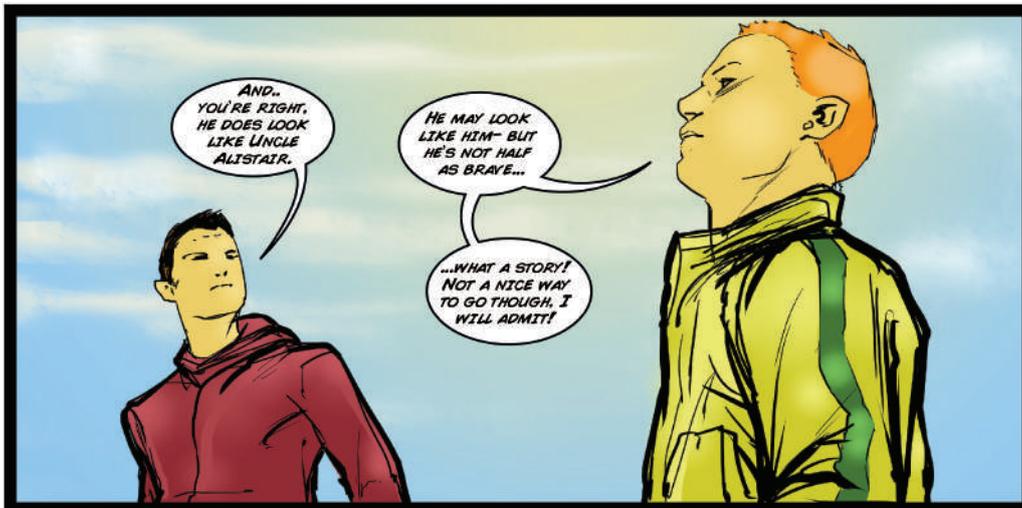
McDERMOT L.
 McDEVITT K.

BILLY HAS NO KNOWN GRAVE BUT HIS NAME IS INCLUDED ON THE THIEPYAL MEMORIAL AT THE SOMME...

McDONNELL T.
 McDOWELL H.
 McENARNEY W.
 McFADDEN M.
 McFADDEN W.
 V.C. McFADZEAN
 W.F.

McFALL D.
 McFALL E.
 McGAGHARTY
 ...ALONG WITH MANY, MANY OTHERS.

McGOWAN T.



GLOSSARY

ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE (UVF)

AN ARMED FORCE RAISED IN 1913 TO RESIST THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HOME RULE IN IRELAND, BY FORCE IF NECESSARY. MEMBERS OF THE UVF WERE RECRUITED INTO THE BRITISH ARMY, DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR, AS THE 36TH (ULSTER) DIVISION.

HOME RULE

HOME RULE WAS AN ATTEMPT TO GRANT SELF-GOVERNMENT TO IRELAND, WHILST REMAINING A PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. MANY IRISH NATIONALISTS WERE IN FAVOUR OF HOME RULE WHILE UNIONISTS WERE FEARFUL THAT IT WOULD CREATE A DUBLIN-BASED IRISH PARLIAMENT.

36TH (ULSTER) DIVISION

THE DIVISION WAS LARGELY MADE UP OF MEMBERS OF THE ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE WHO FOUGHT ON THE WESTERN FRONT FOR THE BRITISH ARMY. THEIR INVOLVEMENT IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME WHERE THEY WERE ONE OF THE FIRST GROUPS TO GO 'OVER THE TOP' OF THE TRENCHES.

FRONT LINE

THIS IS THE POSITION AN ARMED FORCE WILL MOVE TO AHEAD OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN A BATTLE.

SHELL SHOCK

SHELL SHOCK WAS A REACTION BY SOME SOLDIERS TO THE HARSH REALITY OF BATTLE. MANY MEN SUFFERED PANIC, BOUTS OF FEAR AND AN INABILITY TO WALK AND TALK PROPERLY AS A RESULT OF THE CONDITION.

SHELLS

A FORM OF PROJECTILE AMMUNITION, WHICH CONTAINED AN EXPLOSIVE, USED THROUGHOUT THE FIRST WORLD WAR. AHEAD OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME, BRITISH FORCES ATTEMPTED TO SHELL THE GERMAN LINES AND DESTROY WIRE BARRIERS ACROSS THE BATTLEFIELD, MAKING IT EASIER FOR SOLDIERS TO CROSS.

TRENCH FOOT

CAUSED WHEN FEET WERE EXPOSED TO DAMP, COLD AND UNSANITARY CONDITIONS FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME IN TRENCHES. FEET WOULD BECOME NUMB AND SWOLLEN AND COULD BECOME INFECTED.

OVER THE TOP

A TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE ADVANCEMENT OF BRITISH FORCES AS THEY MADE THEIR WAY OUT OF THE TRENCHES AND ACROSS THE BATTLEFIELD.

MILLS BOMBS

A TYPE OF GRENADE WIDELY USED IN CONFLICT, INCLUDING THE FIRST WORLD WAR, AND ADOPTED BY THE BRITISH ARMY AS ITS STANDARD HAND GRENADE.

VICTORIA CROSS

THE HIGHEST MILITARY DECORATION POSSIBLE, THE VICTORIA CROSS IS AWARDED FOR VALOUR, BRAVERY AND SELF-SACRIFICE "IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY". THE AWARD WAS FIRST INTRODUCED IN 1856 AND IS PRESENTED TO THE RECIPIENT OR THEIR NEXT OF KIN.

BATTLE OF THE SOMME BACKGROUND...

1 A SERIES OF EVENTS LED TO THE OUTBREAK OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR IN 1914. FINALLY, A GERMAN ADVANCE INTO BELGIUM IN EARLY AUGUST LED BRITAIN TO DECLARE WAR AGAINST GERMANY ON AUGUST 4, 1914.

2 MANY BRITONS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE WAR AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS RUSHED TO JOIN THE FIGHT WHICH MANY BELIEVED WOULD BE OVER IN JUST A FEW MONTHS.

4 MEN FROM IRELAND FOUGHT FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS: FOR PATRIOTISM, ADVENTURE AND TO DEFEND SMALL COUNTRIES. OTHERS FOUGHT BECAUSE IT MEANT THREE SQUARE MEALS A DAY AND PAY. THE REALITY OF THE WAR WAS HARSH AND BRUTAL TRENCH WARFARE. BRITISH AND FRENCH FORCES FACED GERMAN TROOPS ACROSS AN AREA OF NORTHERN FRANCE KNOWN AS THE WESTERN FRONT.

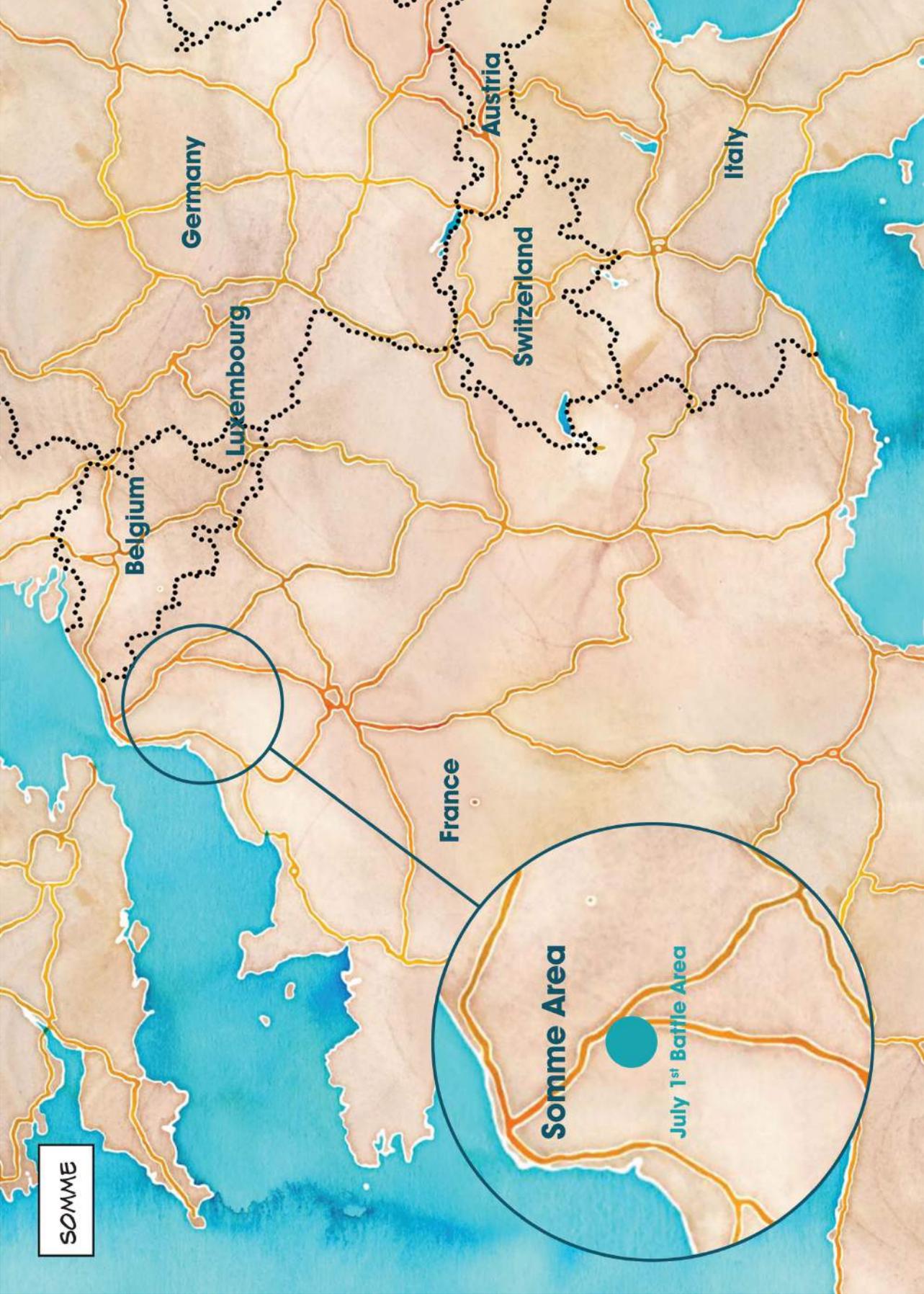
3 IN IRELAND, MEMBERS OF THE ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE (UVF) AND THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS LARGELY ENLISTED IN DIVISIONS KNOWN AS THE 36TH (ULSTER) DIVISION AND THE 10TH AND 16TH (IRISH) DIVISIONS. OVER 200,000 MEN FROM IRELAND PARTICIPATED OVER THE COURSE OF THE WAR.

6 THE DIVISION MADE GOOD PROGRESS BUT FACED A GREAT STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GERMANS. BEFORE BEING RELIEVED ON THE MORNING OF JULY 3, THE 36TH (ULSTER) DIVISION RECORDED OVER 5,500 MEN DEAD, WOUNDED OR TAKEN PRISONER.

5 ON JULY 1, 1916, OVER 15,000 MEN OF THE 36TH (ULSTER) DIVISION WENT INTO BATTLE AT THE SOMME, AN AREA WHERE GERMAN FORCES HELD A LOT OF HIGH GROUND AND HAD BUILT BETTER TRENCHES. ON THAT MORNING THE 36TH (ULSTER) DIVISION LED A CHARGE OVER THE TOP OF THE TRENCHES AND INTO GERMAN LINES.

7 A FEW WEEKS LATER, ON SEPTEMBER 3, THE 16TH (IRISH) DIVISION PREPARED FOR A FINAL ASSAULT ON THE VILLAGE OF GUILLEMONT. ALTHOUGH ACHIEVING A VICTORY IN TAKING BACK THE VILLAGE, OF THE 2,400 MEN WHO BEGAN THE BATTLE, OVER 1,100 WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED.

8 THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME MARKED A TURNING POINT FOR BRITAIN IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND THE SACRIFICE INCREASED THEIR DESIRE FOR TOTAL VICTORY. THE DECISION TO FIGHT UNTIL THE BITTER END EVENTUALLY LED TO GERMAN SURRENDER IN NOVEMBER 1918, ALTHOUGH VICTORIOUS BRITAIN HAD SUFFERED THREE MILLION CASUALTIES AND DEATHS.



SOMME

Germany

Belgium

Luxembourg

France

Somme Area

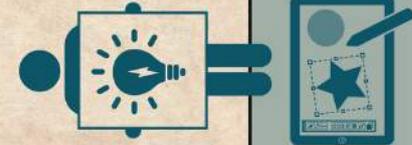
July 1st Battle Area

Austria

Switzerland

Italy

INTERACTIVE TASKS...



POSTER MAKING TASK:

PUPILS WILL USE COMIC LIFE TO CREATE A ONE PAGE PROMOTIONAL POSTER ENCOURAGING MEN OR WOMEN FROM THEIR AREA TO JOIN THE WAR. PUPILS WILL CHOOSE WHETHER TO ADVERTISE TOWARDS MEN OR WOMEN AND WILL USE A MIXTURE OF IMAGES AND TEXT TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE TASKS EACH GROUP WOULD BE INVOLVED IN WHEN GOING TO WAR. IMAGES AND INFORMATION CAN BE SOURCED FROM THE COMIC AND FROM THE INTERNET.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ONE LESSON BE USED TO EXPLORE THE COMIC BOOK AND TO RESEARCH AND STORYBOARD THE POSTER; AND ONE LESSON USED TO CREATE THE DESIGN.

CURRICULUM LINK: UICT - DESKTOP PUBLISHING

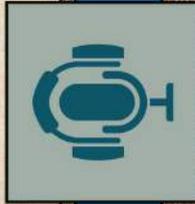


RADIO SHOW TASK:

PUPILS WILL USE AUDACITY TO CREATE A SHORT RADIO NEWS BULLETIN WHICH MAY HAVE PLAYED ON IRISH RADIO ON JULY 2, 1916. PUPILS WILL ACT AS NEWSREADERS, REPORTERS AND CITIZENS OF BELFAST FOR THE PIECE. PUPILS WILL FORM INTO SMALL GROUPS AND PLAN THEIR BULLETIN, USING THE COMIC AND THE INTERNET TO RESEARCH SOME OF THE KEY EVENTS FROM THE BATTLE AND THE IMPACT IT HAD ON PEOPLE AT HOME.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ONE LESSON BE USED TO EXPLORE THE COMIC BOOK AND TO RESEARCH AND WRITE A SCRIPT FOR THE NEWS BULLETIN; AND ONE LESSON USED TO CREATE THE RECORDING.

CURRICULUM LINK: UICT - MUSIC & SOUND; COMMUNICATION



CREATIVE WRITING TASK:

PUPILS WILL WRITE A DIARY ENTRY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF BILLY MCFADZEAN. PUPILS WILL IMAGINE THEMSELVES AS BILLY A DAY BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME WHEN HE PREPARES TO GO OVER THE TOP OF THE TRENCHES.

PUPILS WILL USE THE COMIC TO EXPLORE WHAT BILLY'S STATE OF MIND WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE AHEAD OF BATTLE AND HIS THOUGHTS ABOUT FRIENDS AND FAMILY BACK AT HOME.

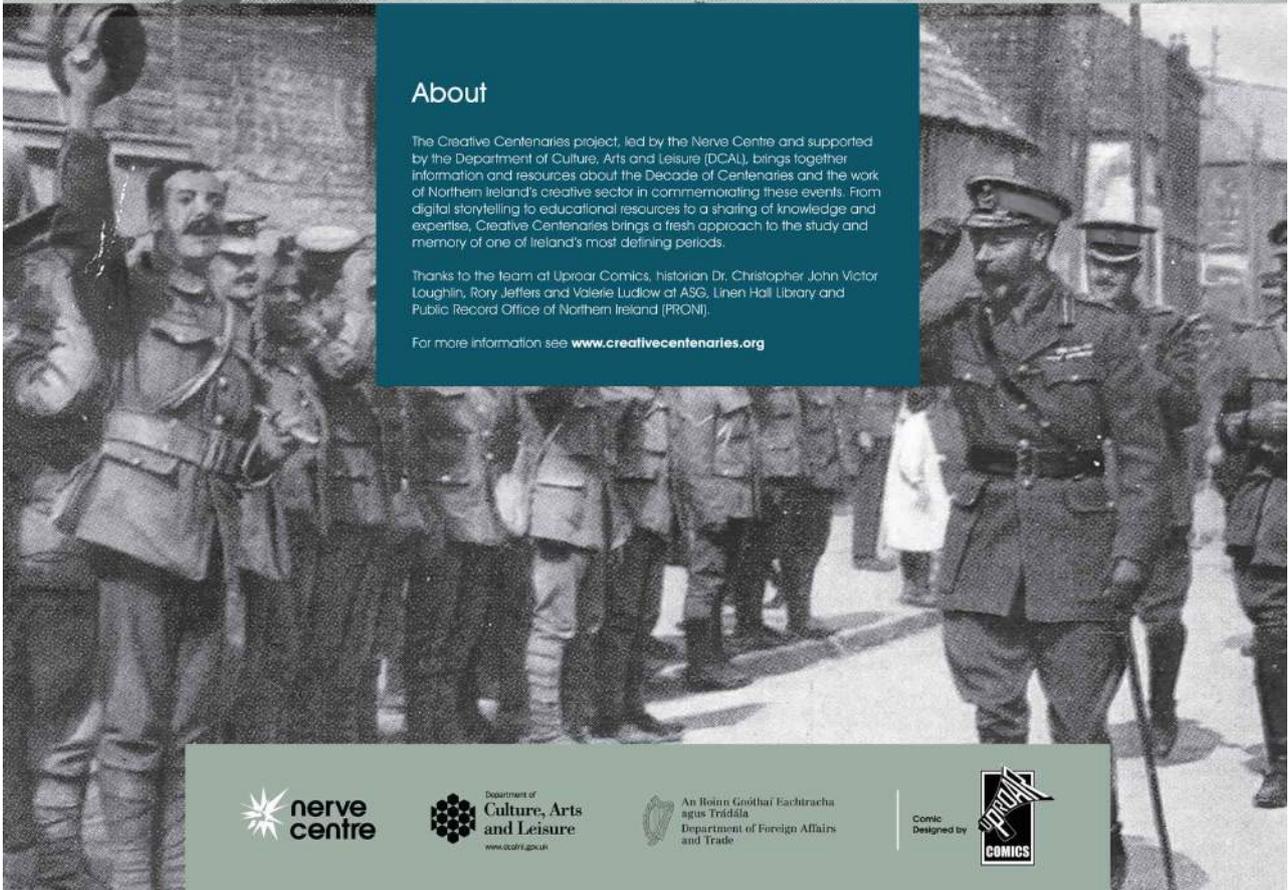
IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ONE LESSON BE USED TO EXPLORE THE COMIC BOOK; AND ONE LESSON USED TO CREATE THE DIARY ENTRY.

CURRICULUM LINK: LANGUAGE & LITERACY; PDMU (PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING)





**Creative
Centenaries**



About

The Creative Centenaries project, led by the Nerve Centre and supported by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL), brings together information and resources about the Decade of Centenaries and the work of Northern Ireland's creative sector in commemorating these events. From digital storytelling to educational resources to a sharing of knowledge and expertise, Creative Centenaries brings a fresh approach to the study and memory of one of Ireland's most defining periods.

Thanks to the team at Upoar Comics, historian Dr. Christopher John Victor Loughlin, Rory Jeffers and Valerie Ludlow at ASG, Linen Hall Library and Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI).

For more information see www.creativecentenaries.org

