



## ENQUIRY

# Why are the events at 'Manchester Hill' still remembered 100 years on?

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### Key Stage 3

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## ENQUIRY OVERVIEW

This enquiry examines key elements of the Battle of Manchester Hill on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918. The enquiry focuses on developing students' source skills through analysis of historical evidence. It may be necessary to define the term 'Pals' with students, as the enquiry focuses on the role of the Manchester Pals within the battle. It is designed to be a stand-alone lesson that can be done around the time of the centenary commemoration of the battle or can be fitted in to a wider scheme of work looking at the First World War.

Students are then asked to focus the background and the Battle of Manchester Hill by investigating a range of sources. Students are asked to explore a number of key questions;

- Question 1 - The man: Who was Wilfrith Elstob?
- Question 2 – Who were the Manchester Pals?
- Question 3 – What happened on 21 March 1918?
- Question 4 – How are they/Should they be remembered today

The enquiry begins with students being asked to analyse an image of Wilfrith Elstob. Students should be able to identify that he is in the army, clearly of a higher rank due to his uniform and possibly from the First World War. They may also start to suggest that he may have something to do with a Pals Battalion depending upon their level of previous knowledge. They are then provided with some background to Wilfrith Elstob including where he died.

This main activity is to be done as group work but can be developed as the teacher wishes. Each group could either look at one question in detail before feeding back in a whole class discussion, or each group could look at all four questions with one member of each group focusing on a separate one. The emphasis is on students developing their source analysis skills to form extractions and inferences. Some students may go further to question the utility and reliability of the interpretations and sources that they are using. They should also start to assess why this event is so significant to the city and surrounding area of Manchester.

Students will look at a wide range of sources of evidence, including maps, photographs, letters, military records, newspaper accounts and secondary accounts. The end product will be a presentation in response to the enquiry questions with outcomes ranging from simple identification to detailed rationalisation of why this event is so significant and its wider impact on the Greater Manchester area.

The enquiry has been created as part of the centenary commemorations of the Battle of Manchester Hill, a collaboration project between the UCL Institute of Education, Manchester City Council and The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment.



## Lessons

### Starter

Students are presented with an image of Wilfrith Elstob and are asked to identify who they think he is, what their impression is of him and what questions they would like to ask about him (individual, paired or small group activity with whole class feedback). There is an element of assumption that students will have some previous of the First World War. As a result, we would hope responses will include; part of the army, a man of higher rank, took part in the First World War, some may even say he was killed and that's the reason why we have an image of him. This may be a good time to check that students understand what was meant by a 'pals' battalion as this links specifically to the Battle of Manchester Hill.

### Main activity

Students are shown an image of St Quentin and informed that Wilfrith Elstob died there on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918. Could ask students to come up with own ideas about what may have happened, linking to student knowledge that 1918 was the final year of the war and this period was during the German Spring Offensive etc.

Students are then presented with the four enquiry questions for this lesson;

- Question 1 - The man: Who was Wilfrith Elstob?
- Question 2 – Who were the Manchester Pals?
- Question 3 – What happened on 21 March 1918?
- Question 4 – How are they/Should they be remembered today

Students are to use the sources to answer these questions (group work) and create a presentation (spider diagram, verbal etc) to demonstrate their findings. Leads back into a whole class discussion and feedback. Structure of this will be determined by the way the main task was carried out (whether groups look at one question or all of them).

### Stretch Activity for main task

These students could identify and highlight reasons why this event is so significant. These could include Elstob being killed and posthumously awarded the VC, the impact of the battle on the Pals Battalions and the Manchester area, the bravery of the men as recognised by the Germans, the fact that very few people in this area have heard about the battle yet it is so closely associated with Manchester (wider impact).

### Plenary Activity

They could write their own reflections now that they know about the battle and whether they feel it is significant and should be remembered by the people of Manchester and the Greater Manchester area. There is also a creative writing competition being run alongside this project by Manchester City Council. More details can be found here...

### Resources

Manchester Hill presentation

4 x resource packs