

BEGBIE CANADIAN HISTORY CONTEST

ANSWER KEY 2006

SECTION I MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. B	2. D	3. C	4. D	5. B
6. C	7. B	8. B	9. A	10. C
11. A	12. C	13. B	14. D	15. A
16. A	17. A	18. D	19. D	20. B
21. A	22. C	23. D	24. A	25. C

SECTION II PARAGRAPH RESPONSE QUESTION

Thesis

Any thesis is acceptable if the student can support it by reference to the posters. Two possible examples are given.

Support

1. These posters would likely work for younger, unmarried women. They would appeal to the women's sense of femininity, adventure, participation, equality and patriotism. War is portrayed in a very positive manner.

Femininity

The women in all three posters are all very feminine. They are young, bright, beautiful, and look good in uniforms.

Adventure

Poster 1 shows that women who enlist would get to travel the world (on ships). They would be active participants (they are wearing helmets) in non-combat positions (they are unarmed). They would be answering a call to duty ("our war").

Participation and equality

Poster 2 shows the women sharing equal responsibility with men ("our war" and "our battle too"). The woman is shown doing traditional female tasks (typing). It looks like the army would be a great place to meet handsome men. This poster and the others invoke a sense of purpose and duty. The noble sounding phrases in the other posters are associated with strength and dedication.

Patriotism

The woman in poster 3 is shown in front of the Union Jack. She is shown to have a sense of service and pride. It is difficult to ignore the sincerity of this woman and the woman in poster 1. The woman looks capable, determined and strong.

2. Although these posters were designed to appeal to women's sense of femininity, adventure, participation, equality and patriotism, they were unlikely to overcome most women's devotion to their families and to other very attractive and well-paying work opportunities. Besides, many people felt that the army was a man's world and that only the "wrong" type of women would be interested. The Union Jack would not be as positive a symbol in Quebec as it would be in the rest of Canada. Feminists might note that women were given passive roles (only men are carrying guns in the first poster, and the women in the second poster are doing secretarial work). Women

familiar with the brutal realities of World War I would not be fooled by the positive image of war portrayed in these images.

SECTION III ESSAY RESPONSE QUESTION

Thesis

1. No, there is not enough evidence. Historians like to have eyewitness accounts of an event given as soon as possible after the event. Two independent eyewitness accounts of this nature are enough for historians to declare the event a fact. We do not have two sufficiently reliable accounts of the crucified Canadian (accounts recorded soon after the event by eyewitnesses). The evidence is mostly recorded well after the event or based on hearsay accounts. There are discrepancies in the evidence (barn door, tree; soldier, corporal; one person, three persons; hands nailed, tied or bayoneted; bullets, no bullets; body hacked to bits, unwounded; behind German lines, or on the St. Jean road). Sir Arthur Currie, the one man who should have been able to find evidence of a crucifixion, was not able to find credible evidence. All of the sources were produced by Canadians.

2. Yes, there is enough evidence. There is enough circumstantial evidence (events or facts that make certain conclusions apparent) to conclude that a Canadian was crucified on April 23, 1915, at Ypres. If one makes allowance for the confusion of the battle itself, and the passage of time before some of the stories of the crucifixion were recorded, the stories of the crucifixion are remarkably similar (corroboration).

3. Maybe there was a crucifixion. The crucifixion likely took place but to date there isn't enough reliable evidence to state that the crucifixion was a fact.

Any thesis is acceptable if the student can support it by reference to most of the documents.

Support

Document 1

No

This advertisement is a good example of propaganda designed to sell bonds. It was unlikely to have been drawn by an eyewitness. The allies used (or made up) stories of atrocities in order to rally support for the war, to recruit soldiers or to sell bonds (the Germans raped women, bayoneted children etc.). The illustration was drawn more than four years after the event. It suggests that more than one person was crucified.

The German soldiers are demonized in the drawing and in the text. The Canadian is Christ-like.

Drawing

- the soldiers are jeering, threatening and taunting the Canadian soldier
- the soldiers are profiled by a dark background, the Canadian soldier is drawn with light shading

- one soldier is crawling in an ape-like position, one is wiping blood from his bayonet
- the Canadian soldier is compared to Christ on the cross; and the German soldiers to the heartless Romans. Why would soldiers from a Christian nation kill a soldier in this way?

Text

- the text is designed to stir up Canadians. It calls for revenge, claims that many Canadians witnessed the crucifixion (“cold facts”) and uses inflammatory language (“hot with rage”, “savaging”).

Yes

The drawing is consistent with most reports of the crucifixion of the Canadian soldier.

Document 2

No

This newspaper article is based on two hearsay reports (one based on a report by Captain Allen, who may or may not have been an eyewitness, and the other on a report by the Dublin Fusillers) and not on the firsthand knowledge of an eyewitness. The reports were made two weeks after the battle. There are major discrepancies in the accounts of Clayton and the Paris correspondent.

Clayton	- tied to a tree	Paris	- nailed to a door
	- body pierced 60		- hands and feet pierced, body
	times by bayonets		riddled with bullets

The soldier is not named and the place of execution is not stated. One account states that the crucified man was a sergeant.

Yes

Newspaper reports are considered to be the first draft of history, written in haste by reporters who often don't have time to check details. Both accounts agree that a Canadian soldier was crucified. Documents D2, D7 and D8 agree that the crucified soldier was a sergeant.

Document 3

No

This report, made more than two years after the event, says that three Canadians were crucified (one corporal and two privates), not one as in documents 1, 2 and 4. The witness was a prisoner of war who may have been motivated by a desire to fuel anti-war sentiment during the war.

Yes

This eyewitness account is similar to that of the Paris correspondent's account of men impaled on a barn door by bayonets. The soldier's statement was made under oath.

Document 4

No

The St. Jean road is behind the allied lines (if the soldier was crucified there, the act was not likely committed by the Germans). The account was written three years after

the event. The writer states that he did not see any bullet wounds and that the soldier was pinned to a barn door by bayonets driven through his hands (see D2).

Yes

This is the second eyewitness account saying that a soldier was crucified on a barn door, using bayonets. The Victoria Cross winner made his statement under oath. He made the statement years after the battle and may have made an error on the location of the crucifixion.

Document 5

No

Sir Arthur Currie commanded the Canadian troops at Ypres. He is a very credible witness. He was unable to find any evidence of a crucifixion. This is very strong evidence that earlier reports were likely based on rumours. It was in Canada's interest to confirm the story but Currie was unable to do so.

Yes

The crucifixion took place in the middle of a long battle, in which the struggle moved back and forth and many people were killed in a ghastly manner. If a crucifixion took place it was likely witnessed by only a small number of men. Many of them were likely killed or wounded in the battle. Currie may not have been able to locate one of the eyewitness survivors four years after the battle, when they had dispersed.

Document 6

No

The map shows that the St. Jean road is behind the allied lines. (D 4)

Yes

The map shows that the battle lines changed. Nelson's location for the crucifixion is consistent with the map.

Document 7

No

We have no way of knowing why the Sons of Temperance recorded Band's death by crucifixion. The report may have been based on rumour or hearsay evidence. The source says that Band served in France. Ypres is in Belgium.

Yes

This is the first time that the crucified Canadian was given a name. The Sons of Temperance discussed Band's death and believed that he had been crucified. Harry Band's name is confirmed in D8, D9 and D10. People in New Brunswick may have thought that Ypres was in France.

Document 8

No

All this document shows is that one of the men killed at Ypres was a sergeant named Harry Band. There were thousands of men killed in the battle over the course of several days. The document does not record how he died.

Yes

This objective source says that a Canadian sergeant (D 2) Harry Band (D7) was killed at Ypres on April 23, 1915.

Document 9

No

We do not know if the soldiers mentioned were eyewitnesses. The story of the crucifixion of Harry Band could have been based on a rumour. Elizabeth Petrie's evidence is hearsay. Historian would prefer to have the letters written by the two soldiers [unfortunately these letters cannot be located]. Elizabeth's statement that Harry Band was "hacked to bits" and taken down alive is inconsistent with the accounts given in D2, D3 and D4.

Yes

Band's sister received two letters from Sergeant Band's unit saying that he had been crucified. It is hard to believe that these soldiers would have made up such a story. The letter to which she refers was written in 1916, three years before Arthur Currie's investigation.

Document 10

No

Once again this is hearsay evidence. The soldier may have been passing on a rumour. The account was written several months after the battle.

Yes

The letter was written slightly more than two months after the battle. This shows that the story of Band's crucifixion was known and believed soon after the battle (hence it is not surprising that soldiers in Band's unit would tell his sister (D9)). One wonders if Band was the name given to Clayton (D2) less than a month after the battle.