

Part A:

Using a range of sources, research the experience of a South Australian service man or woman on the Western Front and/or at Gallipoli and/or in the Middle East during World War 1.

1. Describe the context of the battlefield the chosen service man or woman participated in during World War I:

Private Lloyd Leonard Mahoney fought in Gallipoli, Turkey, and northern France in the Battle of Pozières. The 1915 Gallipoli campaign involved the unsuccessful plan of the Allies to force Turkey out of the war and control the vital sea supply routes between Europe and Russia. It began as a naval campaign, with British battleships sent to attack Constantinople (aka Istanbul), but failed after they were unable to power a way through the Dardanelles. The Battle of the Somme was fought in 1916 to defuse the Verdun war and decrease Germany's strength. It helped the Allies to reclaim a decent quantity of land, and encouraged the Germans' retreat. However, it was also recorded as one of WWI's bloodiest episodes.

The 23rd of July was the beginning of the infamous Pozières battle. The Australian 1st Division claimed Pozieres, and soon was strengthened with the 2nd Division that led to the first unsuccessful counter-attack on the 29th of July. The Divisions fought with success on the 2nd of August, which resulted in the taking of German locations outside the town. Consequently, German retaliation hit like a blade from Hades, obliterating 600-700 Allied soldiers, and striking an estimated 6,800 casualties. The village of Pozières was obliterated, as shown in Figure 1. Most famously, the Windmill had the densest location of fallen soldiers of any battlefield in World War I (Figure 2).



Figure 1: Pozières Village in 1913 and after the battle.



Figure 2: Pozières Windmill site in 1913 and after the battle.

2. Describe his/her background before departing for the war:

Lloyd Leonard Mahoney was a handsome man, as shown in Figure 3, who was born in Fulham, South Australia on the 23rd of August 1897. Lloyd had an Australian mother, Alma Ann Louise, and an Irish father, Michael Mahoney, who practised protestant religion. During the early 1900s, Fulham was a successful farming rural area, but has now been transformed into an urban house-filled environment, because it is so close to the Adelaide city. A typical day in Lloyd's life involved milking cows in early mornings, followed by going to Fulham Primary School, where he "showed marked ability", with his older brother. He would have lived a relatively joyful and steady life as a dairyman until the outbreak of World War I.

Lloyd had prior military experience as a Private in the Senior Cadets at age 14. This program was established after Field Marshal Viscount Kitchener of Great Britain was invited by Prime Minister Alfred Deakin in 1909 to help increase Australia's land defence strength by introducing the *Commonwealth Defence Act 1911*. This made military training compulsory for all males aged 12 to 26. Lloyd's older brother, Joseph David Mahoney, enlisted on the 14th of April 1915 in Keswick, at age 19. A couple months later, Lloyd followed in his brother's footsteps and enlisted on the 10th of June also in Keswick, at age 18. Despite the gap in their enlistment dates, the two brothers both set off with the 8th reinforcements of the 10th Australian Infantry Battalion on the HMAT Anchises on 2 September 1915. Lloyd's parents would have been very worried, but proud, as both of their sons gave up their ordinary and stable lives to serve their country in a life-threatening environment.



Figure 3: Lloyd Leonard Mahoney in uniform.

3. Describe his/her life and service on the Western Front and/or in the Middle East:



Figure 4:
Lloyd's war
service
deployment
and journey.

Lloyd was sent to many different locations around the world during his war service, as shown in Figure 4, going wherever his Battalion was sent. Lloyd was a member of the 3rd Brigade that experienced the pain of

being the first wave of soldiers to enter the shores of Anzac Cove, Gallipoli. That being said, Lloyd's experience in Gallipoli was shortened because of his late arrival, poor health and conditions in the battlefield, resulting in a transfer to the rest camp 100km away at West Mudros, Lemnos. He suffered common war illnesses: tonsillitis, diphtheria and scarlet fever. After the evacuation of Gallipoli, which began a day before his release from the camp, Lloyd and the remaining portion of his battalion moved on to the Western Front, via Egypt.



Figure 5: Destroyed trench work from shellfire, that could have potentially been Lloyd's trench as it was dug by Australians on the 23rd and 24th of July at Pozières.

In contrast, Lloyd's war service there was a nightmare. He was faced with one of the worst battlefronts where the trenches were blown to ruins, as shown in Figure 5. As Lloyd and his comrades had to fight from such trenches, they endured an unfathomable level of living hell. The only way to re-supply the Australian troops was to travel the seemingly never-ending path through Pozières then north through almost constantly bombarded trenches along the ridge. As the route led up over two 24/7 enemy observed crests, the slightest noise or shadow made from movement caused German artillery and machine-gun fire to rain over the trenches, creating cartridge discharge residue clouds that blurred the troops' vision. Moving through the trenches would have been like crawling blindfolded through the moon's cratered surface, and possibly just as hard to breath as it would be in space without oxygen.

Many ANZACs reported that the better-known battle at Gallipoli was ultimately less horrific than the Western Front. In a way, it was a miracle to be rescued once injured, instead of being left to struggle and completely obliterated like the landscape. Lloyd was one of those to be thankfully saved and taken to hospital on the 25th of July 1916. However, because of brutal gunshot wounds to his legs, back, elbow and arms, he died three days later in the 34th Casualty Clearing Station. Lloyd's corpse was buried in the Daours Communal Cemetery 2 and 3/4 miles west of Corbie. His parents received a telegram and were then notified that his brother, was killed in action on the 8th of April 1917, also in France. Mr and Mrs Mahoney continued their life in a house that was christened with the combination of their courageous sons' names, Joseph David and Lloyd Leonard: *Josephlen*.

4. Use a range of primary and secondary sources which may include photos, maps, artefacts, diary entries, books and archival materials.

Bibliography:

Lloyd's story primary sources:

- National Archives of Australia, Lloyd's service record, service number 2704, accessed 9/4/18.
- National Archives of Australia, Joseph's service record, service number 2649, accessed 9/4/18.
- Australian War Memorial, portrait of Lloyd in uniform, <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P09220.013/>, accessed 9/4/18.
- National Library of Australia, Trove Newspapers, Adelaide Advertiser, Diamond Wedding Notices, 19/1/1952, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>, accessed 13/5/18.
- National Library of Australia, Trove Newspapers, Adelaide Chronicle, 19/8/1916, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>, accessed 13/5/18.

Lloyd's story secondary sources:

- RSL Virtual War Memorial, Lloyd Leonard Mahoney, <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/183419>, accessed 9/4/18.
- RSL Virtual War Memorial, Joseph David Mahoney, Personal story contributed by Juana Bacasetas, <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/people/326185>, accessed 9/4/18.
- AIF Project, <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/index.html>, accessed 3/5/18.
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission, <https://www.cwgc.org/>, accessed 3/5/18.

General information primary sources:

All photographs except portrait:

- <http://www.abc.net.au/ww1-anzac/fromelles-pozieres/galleries/>, accessed 3/5/18.

Video of footage from WWI:

- The Battle of the Somme (1916 film), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ_OZfaiUlc, accessed 3/5/18.

Photos at Australian War Memorial:

- Taken on 25/4/2018 by Kelly Parkin.

General information secondary sources:

Webpages:

- State Library of SA, Commonwealth Defence Act, <http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/c.php?g=410371&p=2794665>, accessed 3/5/18.
- Australian War Memorial, Mudros West Rest Camp, <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C176407>, accessed 3/5/18.
- Erik Sass, Battle of Pozières, 25/7/2016 <http://mentalfloss.com/article/83663/wwi-centennial-battle-pozieres-romania-agrees-join-allies>, accessed 2/5/18.

Books:

- Peter Fitzsimons, *Fromelles & Pozières: In the trenches of hell*, published: 2016.
- Gerald Gliddon, *Somme 1916: A battlefield companion*, published: 2006.
- Arthur Limb, *A history of the 10th Battalion*, A.I.F. Published: 1919.
- C.B.L. Lock, *The Fighting 10th: A South Australian centenary souvenir of the 10th Battalion, AIF, 1914-1919*, published: 1936.
- Graham Keech, *Australians on the Somme 1916 Pozières*, published: 2016.

Part B:

The Anzac Spirit is generally considered to be comprised of courage, perseverance, mateship and resourcefulness. Using evidence drawn from your research in Part A, choose one of the characteristics of the Anzac Spirit that is best shown by the individual you researched:

Perseverance describes any soldier who didn't give up, despite hurting inside and out. All soldiers who climbed over a high trench wall on the sound of the whistle, demonstrated utmost levels of perseverance, Private Lloyd Leonard Mahoney included. The ANZACs witnessed their mates' souls be cruelly taken by Turk and German bullets, and endured bombings that left bodies crippled. However, the troops would have to power on, as if the aching screams were mute, dismantled figures were invisible, and the bitterly cold weather and trench feet were painless to their body. Every second, of every minute, of every day was a precious moment that ended a life in the field, and could end yours; therefore, having positive morale and persevering were required to survive. As evidence today, Perseverance Road, which leads off the ANZAC memorial gardens in Tea Tree Gully, is named in their honour.

Nothing demonstrated the word perseverance more than a soldier of the Western Front. As shown in Part A, Lloyd lacked experience and knowledge when he entered the Gallipoli campaign because he missed vital training in Egypt due to later enlistment. He also had to face the battleground with contagious illnesses. He experienced most of the Gallipoli campaign from afar, 100km from the action. Lloyd would have felt very frustrated, especially after finally being declared fit enough to re-join the Battalion a day after the retreat of Anzac Cove began. Lloyd had to persevere to wait and see action in France. As shown in figure 6, there was a coin left in his inventory which may well have been a *lucky* coin to change his luck. Lloyd might have carried this coin during the Somme battles as the soldiers could be very superstitious, and believed that if they lost their lucky item, they were doomed to bad luck when entering No Man's Land.

INVENTORY OF EFFECTS of the Late 2704. Pte Mahoney L.L. 10th Batt'n. A.I.F.

Number and Description of Packages One.

NEXT OF KIN.
(Mother)
Alma L. Mahoney,
Fulham,
South Australia.

Date Despatched _____

Contents of Package.

Identity Disc, Cards, Photos, Wallet, Testament, Mirror, 3 Pencils,
Foreign Body extracted from Wound, Coin.
(Rec'd of shell)

3rd Echelon No. 1107.

Wittenberg
D/S 5/16

Figure 6: From Lloyd's service record.

The ultimate occasion that Lloyd demonstrated perseverance was his last three days with wounds that may have killed a lesser soldier. He didn't immediately succumb to the immense pain, but instead continued to stay strong in hope of surviving. Considering he did not have any injuries to his head recorded, it is likely he would have been conscious during this experience. This would have made his fight for life more difficult as the casualty clearing environment he was in was filled with constant death rattles and screams of agony.

Finally, it is worth noting that Lloyd's parents also persevered through the hard losses of their sons. They received a piece of shrapnel that was extracted from Lloyd's body (Figure 6), a piece that might have put on display on their mantelpiece at *Josephlen*, alongside two Dead Man is Pennies and photographs of the brothers in their 10th Battalion uniforms.