

This is a history learning resource for the teaching of the First World War at KS3 (England) or Grades 7-9 (South Africa).

It supports the English National Curriculum for KS3 History -Challenges for Britain, Europe and the wider world 1901 to the present day - the First World War and the Peace Settlement. For pupils in Hampshire, it could also form part of a local history study.

It supports the South African National Curriculum Statement for Senior Grades 7-9 in Social Sciences 2.4.2, 2.4.3 and 2.4.4.

Activities within this pack could also form a stimulus for literacy, art and design.

#### **Equipment:**

Workbooks and writing materials.

Words highlighted in **green** can be found in the glossary at the back of the resource pack.

# We Die Like Brothers In Memoriam

## **In Memoriam**

The wreck of the Mendi is disintegrating through natural processes that affect many materials over time. Eventually it will degrade altogether and very little will remain on the seabed. Even though the ship will disappear, its story must not.

The Mendi is a war memorial and is protected as the grave of many of the men who died.

As a class, look at different types of war memorial, including Delville Wood and a local example.

Discuss as a class why memorials are important. Include ideas of remembrance, education and the resonance of memorials with people today.

Research the various memorials to the Mendi – where are they located? Include artist Dr Shawn-Naphtali Sobers' work commemorating the Mendi (available online) in your exploration of memorials. Dr Sobers' work represents a new approach to commemoration that links the present and the past. Discuss this approach – do your pupils like it? Ask them to discuss their reasons.

## **Learning outcomes**

Pupils will understand that memorials not only commemorate the dead, but also educate people about events in the past.

Pupils will gain perspective into how valuable memorials are for communities that visit them or are represented by them.

Pupils will understand how memorials can be used to reinforce a sense of national, local or community identity.

## **Homework/Extension activities**

Having understood why memorials are important, think about what aspects of the story of the Mendi are most poignant to you. Design your own Mendi memorial to convey this. Words and poems can be memorials, as well as paintings, films and statues.

# SS MENDI