

MONUMENTAL CANADIANS LESSON PLANS & STUDENT ACTIVITIES

RUSSELL LAMBERT BOYLE



NAME: Russell Lambert Boyle

BORN: 29 October 1880

DECEASED: 25 April 1915

EPIC BATTLE: Kitcheners' Wood

RANK: Lieutenant Colonel

HONOURS: Mentioned in Dispatches

LESSON OUTCOMES:

- Learn about Lieutenant Colonel Russel Boyle, the Second Battle of Ypres, and the Battle of Kitcheners' Wood
- Evaluate information to determine historical significance
- Distill and express researched information succinctly

BACKGROUND:

The Battle of Kitcheners' Wood was a counterattack after the chlorine gas attack at the Second Battle of Ypres. With the benefit of hindsight, this battle has often been seen as reckless. At the time, it seemed to be a necessary risk to take to hold the line at the Ypres Salient. Regardless of how you view the battle, the losses incurred were enormous. By the morning of 23 April 1915, the 10th battalion's 800 men were reduced to 188.

Many memorial and commemorative sites have displays with additional information to help viewers better understand the complexity of history. The plaque commemorating Lieutenant Colonel Boyle and the Battle of Kitcheners' Wood on Old City Hall in Calgary does not. The part of the plaque (shown at right) written after the First World War says:

*In Memory of Lt. COL R.L. Boyle, Officers, N.C.O.s, & Men of the Tenth Battn who fell at the Second Battle of Ypres, April 22nd, 1915.
Erected by surviving members of the battalion.*

ACTIVITY:

Your assignment is to:

1. Research the Battle of Kitcheners' Wood.
2. Create an addition to the existing memorial plaque on Calgary's Old City Hall that explains the significance/historical context/details of the battle based on your own historical interpretation of what happened. Be mindful that the message is intended to distill a historical event to its essence for passersby, mourners, or those who want to commemorate the event, so your supplementary material must be brief. Be accurate and be as succinct as possible. Aim for no more than 2 paragraphs and seek to help viewers understand whether the battle was reckless or necessary.
3. Compare your interpretation with those of your classmates. Why do you think they might be different? If similar, why do you think that is the case?

Objectives:

Our Intention is to educate Canadian Citizens so that they:

- » *Appreciate the role of our military heritage in protecting Canadian interests, values and beliefs.*
- » *Understand the role our military history has had in shaping our country and the world.*
- » *Are inspired to be engaged and well-informed participatory citizens of Canada.*

Intended Student Body:
Intermediate & Advanced
Grades



RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Monumental Canadians Russel Boyle Video Clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-MCOQr03ns> (6 minutes)