



Article: www.valourcanada.ca/military-history-library/john-g-pattison-vc/
Documentary (4m:43): youtu.be/Yq_2bc_EhDQ
Vimy Foundation: www.vimyfoundation.ca/death-of-pattison-vc/

Using the resources provided above and your critical thinking skills, please answer the following:

Grades 4 to 6

1. John Pattison was 40 years old when he enlisted (i.e. joined the army). Most sailors, soldiers, and airmen join when they are in their twenties or late teens. Provide three reasons why a person might want to enlist even though they are older than most.
2. Examine the photograph above that shows the village of Farbus, a settlement held by the German defenders prior to the Canadian attack. Explain how the village, its people, and its surroundings would have been impacted during the battle. Do you think the villagers would have been happier before or after the battle? Why?
3. List five questions that you would like to ask Pattison about his experiences as a soldier in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (army) during the First World War.

Grade 7 to 9

4. Choose two of your five questions (from Q#3) and create a step-by-step research plan that will help you find, or get much closer to, the answers you are looking for.
5. Imagine you are Pattison or a member of his unit. Describe your experiences in the trenches, what dangers you encounter, and your thoughts on the advantages and disadvantages of trench use during the First World War.
6. Now imagine you are a German soldier defending a position in your trench on top of Vimy Ridge. Your commander has told you that the Canadians might attack soon –

maybe today, maybe tomorrow, or maybe the day after. Take ten minutes to write a quick letter home that explains your mood and what you are doing to pass time

(Don't forget that you don't want to cause your loved ones to worry about you and you also don't want to risk writing any information that could help the enemy).

Grade 10 to 12

7. Pattison was awarded a Victoria Cross for his actions at Vimy. Research and describe both the origins of the Victoria Cross and what exactly Pattison did to be awarded one. Do you think that Pattison made a plan of action in his head before attacking or do you think that his choice was a spontaneous one? Explain your reasoning.
8. Thinking about the fact that Pattison enlisted when he was 40 years old, evaluate whether a 20-year-old or a 40-year-old would be a better soldier. Make sure to give reasons that support either being better than the other.

Image: The village of Farbus, held by the enemy prior to the Battle of Vimy Ridge (Credit: Library and Archives Canada PA-001084).