



THE BORELLA RIDE

Stories of the First World War
English
Year 8

Stories of the First World War

Lesson objective

Students will examine, discuss and respond to a primary source. The lesson objective can be achieved in writing, or as a class presentation.

Materials

None required.

Key Fact

During the First World War 60,000 Australian soldiers died. One quarter of them were married. Over 3000 of the marriages took place less than a year before the soldier was killed in battle.

Task

First examine the photograph, then read the text and respond to the questions below in writing, or as a class talk.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P07723.001

Wedding photograph of Herbert and Hilda Pollard,
1 November 1915

Stories of the First World War

Reading

The photograph is a wedding portrait of Private Herbert George Pollard, 29th Battalion, from Betley, Victoria, and his wife Hilda.

A 24 year old farmer prior to enlistment on 7 July 1915, Herbert embarked for overseas from Melbourne on 10 November 1915 aboard the ship *Ascanius*. Hilda was 18 years old at their wedding on 1 November 1915. She was a shop assistant and also lived in Betley.

They had only ten days together before he sailed for the war. Herbert was killed in action at Fromelles, France, on 19 July 1916, nine months after the wedding.

After the war his grave could not be located and he was commemorated on the VC Corner Australian Cemetery Memorial, Fromelles. In 2008 a burial ground was located at Pheasant Wood, France, containing the bodies of 250 British and Australian soldiers including Herbert Pollard. All of the remains were reburied in the newly created Fromelles Military Cemetery.

At the time of the official dedication of the new cemetery on 19 July 2010, ninety-six of the Australians, including Pollard, had been identified through a combination of anthropological, archaeological, historical and DNA information.

Try to image...*you are Mrs Hilda Pollard now. You would be 117 years old if you were alive. Not very likely, but possible, as some people have lived to be 120.*

Tell the class (or write 300 words) about yourself. Look closely at the photograph and decide what kind of person you are. You were 18 years old when the photograph was taken and now you are very old.

Tell your story. Where were you born and what did you do before you met Herbert? Short as it was, was it a happy marriage? Were you rich or poor? How did you cope when he went off to the war? Did you keep a memento of Herbert? What happened to you after the war? Did you re marry? Did you have children, grand-children, or even great grand-children? Do you still think of Herbert sometimes? What did you think when you were told they had found his body all those years later? Did you go to Fromelles to visit his grave?



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