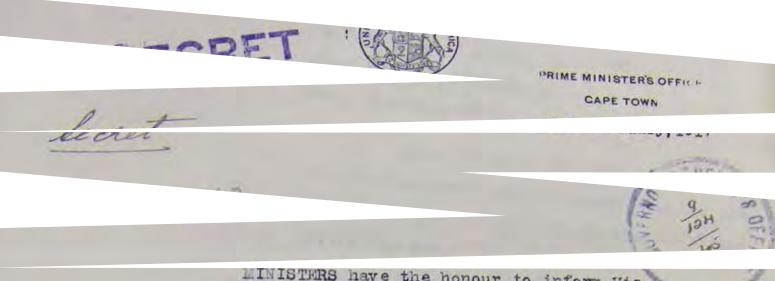
DRILLING THE DEATH DRILL

THE SINKING OF THE SS MENDI



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Officer, South African Mative Labour Contingent,
(I)

Hospital of fifteen Native Privates who are

and (2) the death on the 21st instant as the result of snipwreck in the English Channel of one European non-commissioned officer and eight Native

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INTRODUCTION

The South African Curriculum Statement (CAPS) states:

"History is about learning how to think about the past, and by implication the present in a disciplined way. History is a process of enquiry and involves asking questions about the past: What happened? When did it happen? Why did it happen then? It is about how to think analytically about the stories people tell us about the past and how we internalise that information."

(2011, p.9)

This resource pack draws on primary sources from SAHA's archives in order to enable educators interested in working with their learners to:

- Set up historical enquiries working with the official and unofficial stories of South Africa's involvement in the First World War:
- Consider the commemoration of war, and what this can tell us about the complexities of teaching war and peace.

The pack includes different kinds of activities, indicated by the following icons:



ENRICHING LEARNING: This icon identifies enrichment exercises suitable for older, advanced students.



LEARNING MORE: This icon indicates other educational publications and products to consult for more information and primary sources relating to these topics.



MAKING CONNECTIONS: This icon identifies activities where learners identify patterns and make connections between the past and present, finding similarities between conditions then and now.



PAUSING FOR THOUGHT: This icon indicates questions intended to encourage internal reflection by the learners.



READING THE PAST: This icon indicates activities where learners are required to analyse textual primary sources, such as reports, letters or pamphlets.



TEACHING THE PAST: This icon identifies opportunities for educators to reflect on their practice or to apply teaching methodologies beyond the scope of the topic being discussed.



VISUALISING THE PAST: This icon indicates activities where learners are required to analyse visual primary sources, such as photographs or posters.



WORKING AS A HISTORIAN: This icon identifies activities intended to develop learners' skills in conducting oral history interviews and field research.



WORKING TOGETHER: This icon is used to identify opportunities for learners to work together in the classroom.

2 INTRODUCTION

SETTING UP AN HISTORICAL ENQUIRY IN THE CLASSROOM

IDENTIFY AN OVERARCHING QUESTION

How has South Africa commemorated the roles played by all South Africans who volunteered to serve in the First World War 1914-1918?

INITIATE THE PROCESS BY ESTABLISHING BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE



Use a K-W-L chart with your learners to help them to organise information graphically before, during and after a unit of learning on a particular topic.

A K-W-L chart is a tool to aid learners to establish what background information they already have about a topic, to prepare them to conduct deeper research, and to track the information they gather along the way.

In this case the topic is South Africa's role in World War 1, but the K-W-L template can easily be used for other topics too

- Insert the topic for research above a 3-column table, and ask learners to complete column 1 – "K: What do I KNOW?" with any knowledge they might have.
- 2. Then learners should move on to thinking of questions they would like to know - they then write these as questions in column 2 – W: What do I WANT to know?
- Column 3 L: What did you LEARN? should be completed by learners as they conduct research, work with a textbook or watch a documentary, looking for answers to questions appearing in column 2.

Try using **QUESTION WORDS** in each column to get the process going and to guide the learners through the research process. Some questions relating to the topic of South Africa's role in World War 1 are listed below:

WHEN?

When did South Africa become involved in World War 1? When did the war start and end?

WHO?

Who was leading the different countries involved in World War 1? Whose names come to mind when thinking about the war? Whose stories are not known?

WHERE?

Where did South Africans become involved in the war effort? Where can we learn more about the conditions that South Africans experienced during the war, both at home and abroad? Where does your knowledge come from?

WHAT?

What images come to mind when you think about the topic? What did South Africans do during the war? What evidence do we have? What were the consequences of the war?

WHY?

Why did this war become a World War? Why did South Africans serve in World War 1? Why did Black and Coloured South Africans volunteer to serve in World War 1? Why was their contribution not acknowledged officially until after 1994? Why is it important to acknowledge the role played by all South Africans in the First World War?

HOW?

How did environment or geography affect the experiences of South African soldiers? How is South Africa's role in World War 1 commemorated?

TOPIC: SOUTH AFRICA'S ROLE IN WORLD WAR I

K: What do I KNOW?	W: What do I WANT to know?	L: What did I LEARN?
WHEN?	WHEN?	WHEN?
WHO?	WHO?	WHO?
WHERE?	WHERE?	WHERE?
WHAT?	WHAT?	WHAT?
WHY?	WHY?	WHY?
HOW?	HOW?	HOW?

Figure 1: K-W-L Chart template, adapted from Facing History and Ourselves teaching strategies



An exercise using K-W-L charts to explore apartheid history in the 1970s and 1980s is also detailed on pages 13 – 14 of the SAHA publication "Between Life and Death: Stories from John Vorster Square" available as a free download from the SAHA website.

WORKING WITH SOURCES

READING LIKE HISTORIANS

"For historians the act of reading is not about gathering lifeless information to repeat on a test, but engaging a human source in spirited conversation"

Wineburg et al. 2011.p.vi

Research done by Sam Wineburg (1991) investigated how professional historians worked with sources and revealed that there was something "unnatural" about the thinking of historians.

Most readers would consider texts primarily to be places from which information can be read directly. But, in the case of professional historians, the act of engaging with texts is not simply about extracting information - what the text appears to say - but is rather an interactive, interrogative process aimed at unsurfacing the subtext beneath the purported meaning or intention of the text.

Wineburg identified that they first SOURCED the text wanting to know who wrote it, when it was written, for which audience, etc.

They then CONTEXTUALISED the source, thinking about the time and place in which the source was written, drawn, or painted, and how these contextual factors may have shaped the content of the source.

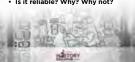
The next step for the professional historians was to look for other sources or to MAKE CONNECTIONS with other sources to CORROBORATE what they were reading.

Lastly they started to look closely at the actual wording and meanings conveyed in the source by CLOSE-READING.

SOURCING

Before reading the document ask yourself:

- · Who wrote this?
- · What is the author's perspective?
- · Why was it written?
- When was it written?
- · Where was it written?
- . Is it reliable? Why? Why not?



CONTEXTUALIZATION

- When and where was the document created?
- What was different then?
 What was the same?
- How might the circumstances in which the document was created affect its content?



CORROBORATION

- What do other documents say?
- Do the documents agree?
 If not, why?
- What are other possible
- What documents are most reliable?



CLOSE READING

- What claims does the author make?
- What evidence does the author use?
- What language (words, phrases, images, symbols) does the author use to persuade the document's audience?
- How does the document's language indicate the author's perspective?





Classroom posters produced by the Stanford History Education Group (SHEG) – these can be downloaded free of charge from the SHEG website.

WORKING WITH SOURCES 5

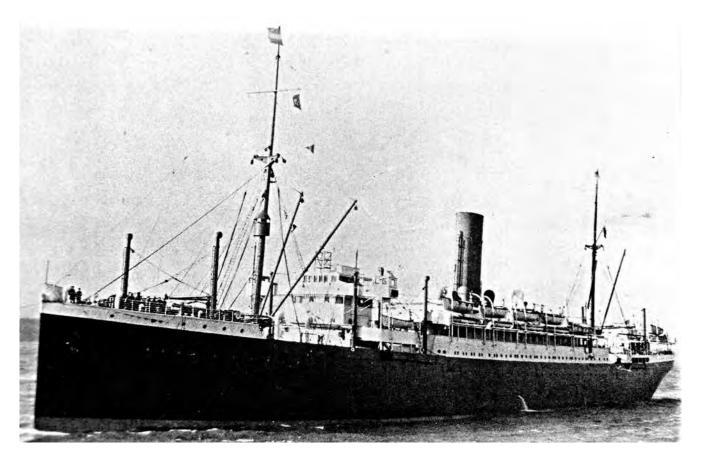
Students are not accustomed to questioning the authority of the text... Much of their past instruction in history/social studies has taught them, passively or actively, that the information they confront in their textbooks or other printed material is correct and that doing well in history is simply a reflection of how much of the information from these sources they can remember. When I pull back the curtain and show students how the subtext of the source informs the text, I have jostled them out of their history comfort zone. For some students this is empowering, whereas for others it is extremely disconcerting.

Bruce Lesh. 2011. p.38

An American teacher, Bruce Lesh, has adapted Wineburg's ideas to provide his learners with a cognitive tool to work with sources when engaging in an historical enquiry.

TEXT	What is visible / readable, i.e. what information is provided by the source?
CONTEXT	What was going on during the time period? What background information do you have that helps explain the information in the source?
SUBTEXT	What is between the lines? Ask questions about the following: Author: Who created the source, and what do we know about that person? Audience: For whom was this source created? Reason: Why was this source produced when it was?

Figure 1.2. Learning to Think Historically: A Tool for Historical Sources. (Adapted from: Lesh, B. 2011. p.20)



WORKING WITH SOURCES

CASE STUDY: THE SINKING OF THE SS MENDI, 21 FEBRUARY 1917



Looking at the sources on the sinking of the SS Mendi on the following pages, engage in a process of historical enquiry, reading these sources like historians, as described by Wineburg and Lesh.

Ask your learners to review the sources and complete the table below. Suggestions for context and subtext information has been provided for the sources, making these suitable for classroom discussion.

SOURCE	TEXT	CONTEXT	SUBTEXT
A			
В			
С			



The same process can also be followed with additional sources on the sinking of the SS Mendi available from the SAHA / SHTP website.







SOURCE A: "EARLY IN THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 21, 1917..."

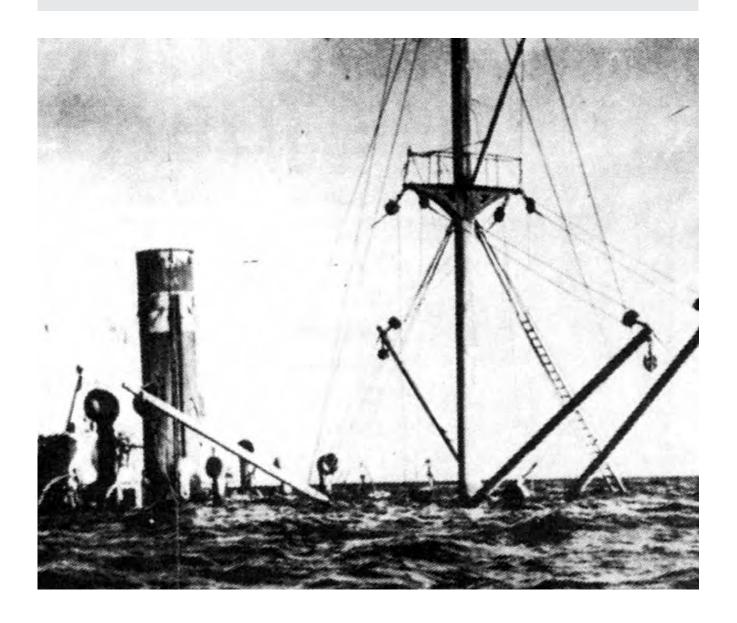
Early on the morning of February 21, 1917, a month after leaving Cape Town Harbour, the troopship SS Mendi was rammed in the thick fog in the English Channel. She sank in 20 minutes. On board, the Reverend Isaac Wauchope (Dyobha) rallied the servicemen to support the war effort in Europe:

"You are going to die, but that is what you came here to do...

Let us die like warriors, the sons of Africa."

This was the last contingent of the South African Native Labour Corps to fight in Europe. Wauchope was among the dead that morning. Of the 895 on board, 647 lost their lives, among them 607 black troops.

Text from the plaque on the SAHA / Sunday Times memorial of the sinking of SS Mendi, University of Cape Town.



CONTEXT

Why were South African soldiers in the English Channel on board the SS Mendi?

The South African Native Labour Contingent (SANLC) was formed during World War 1 to provide essential labour services such as digging trenches, felling trees, loading ammunition and building roads and railways. Since black troops were not allowed to carry weapons these jobs were very dangerous. Despite this, 25 000 black South Africans volunteered to serve in the First World War. Some were attracted by the high wages on offer while others felt committed to the just cause.

The conditions for SANLC troops were much the same as for migrant labourers on South Africa's gold mines. The handbook provided to white officers leading the SANLC set down strict rules for how SANLC troops were to be treated in France:

Compounds should be surrounded by an unclimbable fence or wall, in which all openings are guarded... Under the conditions under which they are living in France, they (the natives) are not to be trusted with white women, and any native found walking around without a pass and not under escort of a white N.C.O. should be returned to his unit under guard or failing this, handed over to the military police.

W.O. 107/37, Appendix G, Directorate of Labour, 'Appendix to Notes for Officers of Labour Companies (South African Native Labour)

It was such treatment of the SANLC troops that makes the SS Mendi tragedy that much more poignant - not only did over 600 SANLC members die, but they died taking part in a war in which they were treated like second-class citizens.

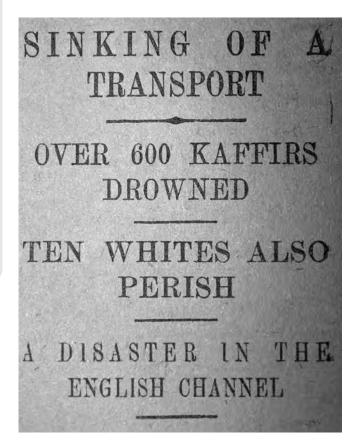
SUBTEXT

The SAHA / Sunday Times Heritage Project was initiated by the Sunday Times, with SAHA collaborating as archival and research partners in 2006. It is important to remember that this wording had to fit on a plaque for a memorial. Authors are generally not acknowledged.



- What might the implications be of the subtext information suggested above for historians treating memorials as historical sources?
- According to the memorial plaque, of the 895 on board the SS Mendi, 647 lost their lives, among them 607 black troops. Yet other sources record alternate figures

 for example, historian Albert Grundlingh suggests 615 men died. Why do you think there are conflicting reports of exactly how many people died aboard the SS Mendi?



SOURCE B: "DRILLING THE DEATH DRILL...

"Brothers, we are drilling the death drill. I, a Zulu, say here and now that you are all my brothers... Xhosas, Swazis, Pondos, Basotho and all others, let us die like warriors. We are the sons of Africa. Raise your war cries my brothers, for though they made us leave our assegais back in the kraals, our voices are left with our bodies..."

ords of comfort to the men aboard the SS Mendi, ascribed to Reverend Isaac Wauchope Dyobha, quoted in "The SS Mendi – A historical background" – on the South African Navy website

CONTEXT

What actually happened on 21st February 1917?

Early in the morning, when a thick fog had settled over the English Channel, the captain of the SS Mendi reduced speed and sounded the foghorn repeatedly. His warnings were in vain. The SS Darro, an empty meat-packing ship destined for Argentina, ploughed at full speed into the Mendi and tore a huge hole in the ship's side. In only 20 minutes, the SS Mendi had sunk.

Most men aboard the damaged ship were asleep in their bunks when they heard the shouts to come up to the deck. In the panic and confusion that erupted, Reverend Isaac Wauchope emerged as an important leader. He calmed the men with his stirring words of patriotism and bravery.

The men sang and stamped together as the Mendi sank into the bitterly cold sea. Few made it to lifeboats. Those who did risked their lives to save others as Dr Hertslet recalled at a memorial service for the disaster many years later (see SOURCE C). Many more troops could have been saved had the master of the SS Darro, Henry Stump, acted appropriately. Stump refused to lower lifeboats from his ship and he made no attempt to rescue those on board the Mendi. According to evidence later provided to an official enquiry, Stump seemed unconcerned about the potential loss of life.



The report of the official enquiry into the collision between the SS Mendi and the SS Darro, conducted in July 1917 by the Board of Trade in London, can be accessed online and from SAHA's archives.

SUBTEXT

Who was the Reverend Isaac Wauchope Dyobha and how do we know that this is what he said?

"Isaac Williams Wauchope Dyobha was born in 1852 into a prominent mission-educated family near Uitenhage. He studied at Lovedale College and was ordained in 1892. He was a member of the movement that successfully campaigned to establish Fort Hare as an institution of higher learning for Africans. In 1910, he was jailed briefly for fraud although the evidence was unclear. In jail he wrote letters and poems published in the Xhosa language newspaper, *Imvo*, the only prison literature of its kind."

SAHA / Sunday Times Heritage Project website



The source records Wauchope as saying: "I, a Zulu..." He was, however, born in a predominantly Xhosa-speaking area and was widely published in Xhosa. Other versions have him saying: "I, a Xhosa..."

 What does this suggest to you about a) the challenges of working with oral sources as historical evidence, and
 b) the potential pitfalls of conducting research online?

ORAL TRADITION AND THE QUESTION OF RELIABILITY

The story of the Reverend's comforting words as the ship went down is regarded as oral tradition no other sources from eyewitnesses corroborate this account. In 2011, historian Grundlingh wrote:

"If it is accepted that the famed incident on the Mendi did not take place, how did such a version emerge and how did it gain a life of its own? A different line of enquiry, away from the deck of the Mendi to the realm of oral lore in South Africa is required here. Because of the lack of sources, it is not possible to provide a definitive explanation, but certain illuminating pointers can be established."

It is particularly instructive to turn to oral poetry in Xhosa society and especially the figure of Samuel E. Krune Mqhayi (1875-1945), a traditional praise singer (imbongi) when considering how the story of the SS Mendi has been recorded and communicated through time. Mghayi had a noteworthy reputation; according to Mncedisi Qangule, 'he is seen as a repository of his peoples' history, culture, tradition and customs.' Besides Mghayi's undoubted influence as a respected Xhosa cultural figure with considerable credibility, it is worth noting that not only was Mqhayi well known to the Wauchope Dyobha family, but that he took a special interest in the Mendi and the fate of Wauchope, whom he generally held in high esteem. Before the departure of detachments of the contingent to France, Mqhayi actually wrote a rousing poem in 1916, using a combination of warrior images and examples of Xhosa domestic life to exhort the men to bravery.

What is of particular significance for this analysis is that the piece shows that Mqhayi was clearly predisposed to refract the venture through a heroic prism. It would then appear that in his role as *imbongi*, formally or informally, he carried on from his original

evocative war poem to provide a stirring sequel from whatever scraps of information or permutations of the story of the sinking of that might have happened that fateful night, shaped by his predilection towards a heroic idiom and cast in a preconceived mould. What most probably circulated orally for a number of years eventually surfaced in written form in 1935. when Mqhayi published a glowing tribute to Wauchope in The Bantu World in a serialised form. Although it was not the first published piece to air a version of the event, it was the most extensive, with Mqhayi in full oratorical flight. Here Wauchope appears as 'the hero of Ngqika's land, descended from heroes'. It was claimed that Wauchope could have saved himself, but he preferred to appeal to the 'leaderless soldiers urging them to stay calm, to die like heroes on their way to war'. He then, according to Mqhayi, proceeded with the legendary speech.

Ultimately Grundlingh concludes

"Historians can do no more than point out these features, perhaps suggesting that the factual evidence can at best temper the dynamics of memorialisation, but ultimately it is bound to find its own niche and purpose in an ever-shifting present. Public history often tends to range free, largely impervious to the arcane workings of the historical profession."



- What role did Mqhayi play in building the narrative of the bravery of the Reverend Wauchope?
- What does Grundlingh mean when he suggests that "public history often tends to range free, largely impervious to the arcane workings of the historical profession."?

The famous speech was not the only oral evidence to tell of the story of the sinking of the SS Mendi. There is a beautiful story told about many men who knowing that they could not swim stood on the deck and took off their army boots and danced like warriors as the ship sank. The historian Tim Couzens (2014, p.243) describes the story below:

"It goes like this (perhaps in response to Wauchope's words, perhaps not): in a hush, hundreds of 'sons of Africa 'removed their army boots and, as the ship shuddered in her death throes, her decks began to vibrate to the drumming of bare feet in the death dance and to the howling of the north wind was added the chant of African voices. On the bridge the captain and his crew officers, were seen standing stiffly to attention and the captain was raising his hand in salute..."

What is significant to historians is that the captain did not mention this "death drill" during the official enquiry into the SS Mendi tragedy. No other survivors spoke about the dancing and the captain standing to attention in any written account. In fact, forensic evidence suggested that the ship sank in twenty minutes leaving very little time for the kind of dancing and the formality of the captain's salute. High school history educator, Debby Joubert, wrote in a 2014 paper on the SS Mendi:

"This story has survived and perhaps become the narrative of the SS Mendi because as human beings we like to make sense of tragic events and give them credence and attribute meaning to them. This narrative exhibits valour in the face of a painful death by drowning, many of the men could not swim and the sea water was very cold. Stories about these men could be passed on from one generation to the next..."



In small groups, learners should discuss the following:

- Historians do not discount oral evidence in the 21st century but they do need to corroborate these accounts with other evidence. Why is this a challenge when working with the oral evidence sources about the Reverend Wauchope and the warriors' dance?
- What do you think of Debby Joubert's suggestion that we need to look at why we who are left behind need these stories "to make sense of tragic events..."?



This story of the SS Mendi has been represented in a recent theatre production, written by Lara Foot and directed by Mandla Mbothwe. Entitled "Ukutshona ko Mendi...Did We Dance?", the title of the play was inspired by Mqhayi's song about the sinking of the SS Mendi.

• Conduct online research to identify other artistic interpretations of the SS Mendi story. Which do you prefer and why?

SOURCE C: "23 YEARS LATER & I REMEMBER..."

MESSAGE FROM DR. L. E. HERTSLET. 23rd ANNIVERSARY SERVICE. 25th FEBRUARY, 1940.

The memory of that cold foggy morning is still keen in my

mind, though twenty-three years have now passed.

I hear the crash as the other big ship ran into us in the darkness. I see the officer in charge of the Bantu, who thought only of his men and their safety, go running round all the sleeping places,

shouting "All on deck.

I see hundreds of them coming up quickly and quietly from below, and each man finding his own appointed place on the deck, notwithstanding the blackness of the night. There is no fear or panic; they put on their clothes and lifebelts as they fall into Each man has used his lifebelt as a pillow during the position. night.

I hear the warning hoots of our steamer, and standing on the

deck, I see two boats being lowered into the sea alongside.

I feel the heave of the ship as the water begins to fill her, and she turns slowly on her side, so that we cannot stand on the deck.

I hear the shout "All overboard! She's sinking!" and every

man who can do so jumps.

I remember the jump into the bitter cold sea, the sinking beneath the surface, the coming up again, the swimming to the boat that had been let down from our ship, and then cut adrift. I feel my hands gripping her side, as we were drawn along in the water by the rowers. I hear myself say "Good-bye, my strength is gone," and then I feel the strong hands of a Native gripping my wrists and holding me up. Then several others catch me round the chest and shoulders and drag me, nearly dead, into the boat, and so I am saved.

Nearly two hundred others were also saved, and all of us who are still alive, remember with you to-day the Bantu and Europeans who went bravely to meet their death on that black

day of the last War.

On Sunday the 25th, I shall stand in my house at 4 o'clock

and join with you in saluting their memory.

Our salutation is a pledge of our loyalty to the Government of our Country, to our King and to the Empire to which we all belong.

Ngi ya ba bingelela, ngi ya konza kanye nani nonke.

Message from Dr. L.E. Hertslet, 23rd Anniversary Service, 25th February 1940. Reproduced in S.M Bennett Ncwana, "Souvenir Of The Mendi Disaster." Published by the Mendi Memorial Bursary Fund, 1940.

CONTEXT

- This source is an extract from a message sent by a survivor, Dr Hertslet, to be presented at a memorial service in 1940, organised 23 years after the SS Mendi tragedy. This memorial service was organised by Black South Africans on their own initiatives to commemorate "Mendi Day" and was not officially sanctioned.
- In his message Hertslet speaks about 'the last war' because it is 1940 and South Africans have once again been called upon to fight in Europe in World War 2.

How was the sinking of the SS Mendi acknowledged and remembered over time?

It took three days for the first report of the SS Mendi disaster to reach the South African government in February 1917. At the time, Prime Minister Louise Botha recognized the valuable work done by the 'native' soldiers on board the SS Mendi by leading the all-white Parliament in a minute's silence. Despite this recognition and other pledges of solidarity made at the time, the government disbanded the SANLC thereafter.

The announcement was met with dismay, especially amongst black South Africans who felt that this act undermined their rights to defend their own country. Even more shockingly, the Union government refused the British government's offer of £50 000 for medals for survivors of the Mendi. The tragic incident was to be largely forgotten for many years to come. Survivors went without honour or medals for the rest of their lives. It was only after apartheid ended that the story of the SS Mendi was retold. In 2004, a new corvette ship bought for the SA Navy was named the Mendi to remember the tragedy.

SUBTEXT:

Who was Dr. Hertslet?

412

S.A. MEDICAL JOURNAL

21 May 1949

OBITUARY

DR. L. E. HERTSLET

Lewis Eccles Hertslet was born in England on 6 December 1877, and died at Cape Town on 30 March 1949. He qualified at the London Hospital in 1901. For a year he was house-surgeon at the Mildmay Mission, and then came to South Africa as a medical missionary. His first station was at Mapota, a few miles from Kosi Bay, in the far north of Zululand. Here he was also District Surgeon, from 1902 to 1904, and to this day he has had no successor in that torrid and malaria-ridden area. Subsequently he served at other and malaria-ridden area. Subsequently he served at other mission stations in Natal, and acquired that proficiency in Zulu which recently made him a valued consultant in the preparation of Doke and Vilakazi's monumental Zulu

From 1914 to 1931 he practised on the Reef, mainly as a mine medical officer, but from 1916 to 1919 was on active service in World War I. He was with the S.A. Native Labour

service in World War I. He was with the S.A. Native Labour Corps in France, and was one of the few survivors when the troopship Mendi was sunk. Towards the end of the War he was on the staff of the Wynberg Military Hospital.

In 1931 Hertslet gave up his practice in order to return to medical mission work in Southern Natal. In 1936 he was appointed part-time District Surgeon at Mapumulo, a densely populated Native area which is an endless jumble of hills and valleys. This difficult terrain overtaxed his strength and hastened the cardiac disorder which in the end killed him. But he carried on until he was 67, being one of the 'Old Guard' who deliberately sacrificed themselves to keep civilian services going while the younger men were on military service in World War II.

Thereafter he settled at the Cape, and devoted his whole time to what had always been his principal spare-time activity viz., the production of material for the health education and general uplift of the backward and the under-privileged. To this task he brought great natural gifts and an insight which was the fruit of his wide experience and his deep human sympathies. In his chosen field he had, in my opinion, reequal in clear and forceful exposition accurately adjusted to the needs and the understanding of his audience; and he possessed an extraordinary flair for coining arresting sloganand really memorable mnemonics.

Throughout his career, Hertslet advocated concepts of health

Throughout his career, Hertslet advocated concepts of health which were positive and stimulating. For him, 'health' mean the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of each individual the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of each individual and the entire community. Very early he realized that the full achievement of this ideal would require vast social and economic reforms, and all his life he was a fearless advocate of such changes. But his first exhortation, always, was beself-help. Here his wide and profound knowledge of Native life particularly, in all its phases, from remotest kraal to heart of city slum, made him an accurate diagnostician and skilled therapist. In him, the Abantu of South Africa have lost a discerning friend and wise counsellor; and the profession of which he belonged has lost a pioneer who blazed a trail

to which he belonged has lost a pioneer who blazed a trail which increasingly it must follow.

His wife, well known as a writer on Native life and champion of the under-privileged, survives him; and several of his children will carry into the next generation their parents' zeal and devotion in the cause of social uplift.

It was Hertslet's own wish that it be placed on record in

any account of his life that, after many years of darkness and uncertainty, his latter days were spent in the light and in the strength of the Faith that first brought him to Africa.

G. W. Gale

Gale, G.E. "Obituary - Dr L.E. Hertslet." South African Medical Journal, 21 May 1944, p.412



- How useful are obituaries as historical evidence? Do you think that it is noteworthy that there is only one line in this obituary about Dr. Hertslet surviving the sinking of the SS Mendi?
- What do you think about the fact that Dr Hertslet sent a message to be read out at this memorial service in 1940?
- The South African government refused to give any medals to the brave 'natives' of the SS Mendi even when they were offered money by Britain. Yet the white survivors were all given medals. What does this suggest about the government, and South Africa, during and after World War 1?

COMMEMORATING THE ROLE OF ALL SOLDIERS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1914-1918)

How do we commemorate the tragedy of war with dignity and respect and without glorifying the notion of dying as heroes for a nation?

PERSPECTIVE 1: 2014 INSTALLATION AT THE TOWER OF LONDON ENTITLED "BLOOD SWEPT LANDS AND SEAS OF RED."

The idea behind this installation was to represent individual soldiers from the United Kingdom, Australia and the Commonwealth killed during World War 1 with a symbolic ceramic poppy. A total of 888,246 poppies were installed.

The ceramic flowers were designed by artist Paul Cummins, with the first flower being planted on 17 July 2014, and the last on 11 November 2014.

The poppies were bought by individuals for 25 pounds each, with proceeds going towards charities that support war veterans. Over 8000 volunteers helped to plant the poppies.



- What do you think about the symbolism of the art installation (including its title) at the Tower of London?
- Why is the poppy used to commemorate the fallen soldiers of World War 1?
- The number of poppies used in this art installation is very specific yet estimates of total deaths in World War 1 vary greatly. What does the specificity of this figure suggest to you?







PERSPECTIVE 2: "LET US NOT DISHONOUR THOSE WHO DIED"

"Across Britain today at many sites commemorating the First World War and 100 years since that terrible slaughter began, there are seas of red poppies laid down as part of November 11 "Remembrance Day" ceremonies and the dedication to "never forget". Commenting on these displays, many people have spoken of their awesome grace, dignity and beauty - that they are almost "overwhelming".

And yet, at the same time, there's something very sad about this. The official state sanctioned commemoration of November 11 has gradually transformed from an honouring and recognition of those killed to a legitimation of state sanctioned violence. While being touched by the 'gracefulness' of honouring and remembering we forget: these millions who died in World War 1 did so not for great causes, not in 'defence' of homes and freedoms otherwise 'under attack', but because of the ineptness, incompetence, and by and large, criminality of state and political 'leaders' who would use the resources of their countries not to generate well-being and opportunities, invest in education, health, roads, and actually improving quality of life for citizens, but into war. Those who died were fathers, sons, brothers... as well as many civilians including people of all genders and ages. They died for a war that need not have been fought, for interests which were not theirs. And thus, sadly the way in which most of us practice or reflect upon these seas of poppies actually... does a disservice and dishonours the memory of millions of men as well as many women sent to slaughter and be slaughtered...

If you want to 'honour' those who died, go one step further, not by disgracing their memories with red poppies which treat war as a heroic act, but by remembering that those people who went to kill and be killed were human beings - sons, fathers, brothers by and large - who might have lived another day, who might have gone on to be poets, engineers, teachers, or simply woken one morning to feel the sun upon their skin, to fall in love, to cry, to do any of the thousand things that we do daily and take for granted... but which they can't because they were sent to war..."

Kai Brand-Jacobsen, "This November 11, let us not dishonour those who died", 6 November 2014



Silent conversation about the notion of commemorating the tragedy of war.

This activity works best in pairs or groups of four at the most.

- Provide the learners with a big piece of paper and some pens or markers.
- Explain that they are not allowed to talk at all but are to engage in conversation about a topic or a text or a picture by writing their comments to each other.
- If time allows the learners can move to other groups and contribute to their silent discussions.

Adapted from Facing History and Ourselves teaching strategies

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO COMMEMORATE WAR?

PERSPECTIVE 1: THE COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION (CWGC)

The Commonwealth War Graves
Commission honours the 1,700,000
men and women of the forces of the
Commonwealth who died in the two world
wars and ensures that their memory is
never forgotten. We are the organisation
that cares for cemeteries and memorials
at 23,000 locations in 154 countries. Our
values and aims, laid out in 1917, are as
relevant now as they were almost 100
years ago.

The Commission's principles:

- Each of the dead should be commemorated by name on the headstone or memorial
- 2. Headstones and memorials should be permanent
- 3. Headstones should be uniform
- There should be no distinction made on account of military or civil rank, race or creed

CWGC website

The material developed by the CWGC for educators on investigating the role of Black South Africans in the First World War asks these questions:

- Compare the treatment of the South African men in 1914-18, to how they are remembered.
- Why should we remember the SANLC?
- Why is equality in memory important?
- Is it still relevant in today's society to remember the casualties of the First World War?



The Jigsaw Puzzle Method

- Divide the class into groups of four. It works best to allocate numbers 1 4 and then ask all number 1's to sit together to form group 1, and so on.
- Then allocate each group one of the questions above to discuss and to write down some key points for 10 - 15 minutes.
- Then ask them to move into new groups where you have at least 1 representative from groups 1 – 4 in each group.
- Learners then share their questions and the key points that their home groups came up with.



The CWGC short film "Let Us Die Like Brothers" tells the story of the SS Mendi and the role played by the SANLC in World War 1. Information about how to order a free copy of the film, along with teaching materials on the SS Mendi and the commemoration of war, can be accessed in the learning and resources section on the CWGC website.



PERSPECTIVE 2: A CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE FROM ANKE HOFFSTADT

Extract 1:

Anke Hoffstadt gave the keynote address at the 28th annual conference of the South African Society for History Teaching (SASHT) in 2014, discussing sites of commemoration of World War 1 in Europe. She began her presentation with an image of present day Ypres, alongside a 1916 aerial photograph of the town, and posed the rhetorical question, "Why this picture?"

"Well I think that it's a good symbol for the main aspects I'd like to talk about today. For I am going to talk about overwritings. Like a new, rebuilt town (as Ypres is just one example amongst others at the former western front lines), memory and commemoration did and do overwrite the historical event of the Great War - the First World War that took place a hundred years ago. And that did and does not only affect buildings, landscapes, cities and small towns in the front line zone. It affects and affected the people as well - with their experiences as eyewitnesses or in the memories of grandchildren and the next generations. And it did and does not even affect only the local landscape, the original places of war and battles. Memory is even translocatable in a limited way – as we see while looking at memorials for casualties of war, far away from the battlefields where they died. And last but not least: like the city of Ypres has been rebuilt in several layers - memory and commemoration both are to be seen as phenomena with their own history, as processes in history, so to say. First and foremost, commemoration follows its own times of silence and neglect - or its booming phases like in the remembrance year, 2014.







- What does Hoffstadt mean by the term 'overwritings?'
- Do you agree that it is not only the physical environment that is affected by how memory and commemoration overwrite the actual historical event of the First World War?
- What do you understand by the term 'translocatable?'
- What does Hoffstadt suggest by the comparison with the rebuilding of the layers of Ypres and memory and commemoration?

Extract 2:

Hoffstadt refers to the words of her colleague Piet Chielens, the Director of the In Flanders Field Museum, who uses etymology to explore the complexities of commemoration, memory and mourning:

> "... commemoration in English or 'commémoration' in French means to bring to a common memory, to recall for all. In Dutch 'herinnering', or in German 'Erinnerung' means to bring back to your inner self, and 'herdenken' / 'Gedenken', to reflect, to rethink... If the first concept is very much part of public, social behaviour, the second is a private, intimate process. To commemorate - 'herinneren' - the dead (and especially the military dead) of the First World War is very much part of both worlds, the private and the public. When you are standing at the grave of a relative who died in the war, you may think of the sorrow that this death caused the mother of the deceased, or his lover, or his children, and all the way down to your place in this family tree. That is a private, intimate process. But all the same you are standing in an official military cemetery, where dead are worshipped following an official design, custom, format and ritual. That is an entirely public affair, with custom rules and traditions. Sometimes these two sides may clash."

Extract 3:

Hoffstadt refers to the ways in which black participants in World War 1 have been rendered invisible, or visible only in negative terms:

> "The participation of coloured people, of black people serving in the First World War is nearly invisible. Monuments have been made for the Europeans, for the Whites, for the colonialists, Tombstones that tell the story of a soldier from the colonies or the dominion that dies in France or Belgium are exceptional... [In contrast, consider] the commemoration coin designed by Karl Gotz (1875 - 1950) in 1920. Its topic is the "Schwarze Schmach" campaign, pushed forward by German national conservatives and radical right-wing politicians and agitators during the French occupation of the river Rhine... For Gotz and those who did not accept the occupation as 'the losers' of the First World War, black soldiers, like this French tirailleur, were imagined like raping monsters, savages, cultureless and dangerous... In this way, black participants of the First World War front lines weren't invisible. Far from it!"







- What words do we have in our South African languages for the concepts of commemoration or remembrance?
- Do you agree that to commemorate the military dead of the First World War is part of both the public and private worlds? Does this apply to any conflict?
- Hoffstadt translates "Schwarze Schmach" as "black ignominy / dishonour." Why do you think such a campaign would have been launched at this time?

READING MEMORIALS

Monuments, memorials and museum displays can also be read as historical texts that represent certain events or individuals from the past. When visiting war memorials, think about what each memorial might be trying to represent or convey, and how we should read them as historical texts.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- What is a war memorial?
- Why do we have war memorials?
- Who do they commemorate and how is this decided?
- What types of war memorials are there?
- How do we know what or who is being commemorated?

HOW HAS THE BATTLE OF DELVILLE WOOD (1916) BEEN MEMORIALISED?

The Union Government established in 1910 used the tragedy to foster a common South African identity between English South Africans and Afrikaners. The image of the two 'brothers' fighting side-by-side illustrated the unity of English South Africans and Afrikaners. The sculptures at the top of the Delville Wood Monument, representing the two 'races' of English and Afrikaner in this fight together, failed to acknowledge or commemorate the bigger picture beyond white identity.

"For those attached to Jan Smuts and Louis Botha's cause of constructing the new post-1910 Union of South Africa as a British Dominion based upon a unified white nationalism, the Somme carnage represented a rich historical transition. Shoulder to shoulder in battle, English and Afrikaner had finally found each other. However heavy the loss at Delville Wood, its 'unifying blood sacrifice' had helped to seal the shared European citizenship of previously fractured English and Afrikaner communities."

Bill Nasson, 2004, p62

Much of South African history is perceived to be about racial conflict. In this situation the "two races" are the English and Afrikaner. Martin (2008) writes that this conception that the English and Afrikaners were separate races was even referred to in some Church services:

"... in 1900 during the South African War Reverend Lewis Grant noted that there were three races living in South Africa - English, Dutch and Natives... By 1926, there were two interdependent races - white and black."



What does this suggest about changing perceptions about race in South Africa? How many 'races' were defined by apartheid policies? Does this concept of 'race' still have significance in current South African perceptions?

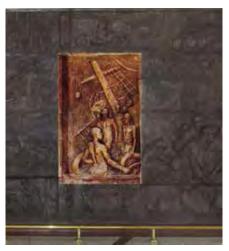
20 READING MEMORIALS

HOW HAVE THE WAR EFFORTS OF THE SANLC, INCLUDING THE SINKING OF THE SS MENDI, BEEN MEMORIALISED?

In contrast to the role played by white South African soldiers in the battle of Delville Wood in France, little is known about the men aboard the SS Mendi and little attention historically given the efforts of the SANLC.

In 1986, the then-South African president P.W. Botha attended a ceremony at Delville Wood to open the museum there. He unveiled an official tribute to the SS Mendi in the form of a small panel added to the larger panel depicting South Africans contributing to the First World War. This was at a time when the South African Government was under enormous pressure to reform. Botha's act could be seen as part of his repression and reform policy in the 1980s





It was only in 2014, as the world marks the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1, that Private Beleza Myengwa of the SANLC became the first 'person of colour' ever to be laid to rest at Delville Wood.

An inscription on Private Myengwa's new resting place inside Delville Wood museum underscores the symbolic importance of his re-interment. It reads:

'Here lies the remains of the first South African Native Labour Corps member to die in France. His presence represents all the members of the SANLC whose deeds were not acknowledged in the past. He is buried here amongst his comrades as a symbol or reconciliation and nation building. Their contribution was not in vain and their heroism will forever be cherished by their nation.'

David Mannel, "One hundred years on, SA remembers fallen at Delville Wood",
The South African, 4 August 2014.



Consider the extent to which the Battle of Delville Wood has been commemorated in comparison with how little official recognition was given to the story of the sinking of the SS Mendi or the broader contribution of the South African Native Labour Contingent who served without weapons or recognition from November 1916 to January 1918.



A very useful website is the one set up by the War Memorials Trust. Although it describes memorials in the UK there is much that relates to the SS Mendi.

READING MEMORIALS 21

THE SKELETON OF A SINKING SHIP...

Installed in 2006, nearly 90 years after the tragedy, the SAHA / Sunday Times Heritage Project memorial of the sinking of the SS Mendi is set on a grassy embankment below a soccer field on the middle campus of the University of Cape Town. It was at this site where troops of the SANLC had been billeted before marching to Table Bay harbour and embarking for France on the SS Mendi. Designed by artist Madi Phala, and installed with the assistance of blacksmith and artist Luke Atkinson, the memorial evokes, in Phala's words, "the history of the people - the black corps, the officers and the crew members."

The work depicts the steel hull of the sinking ship as a skeleton, with various bronzed hats, helmets and caps lined up on front of the prow representing those who died. The numbers of the troops and crew members of the SS Mendi have been etched into the bronzed crowns of the different hats. Atkinson describes the process of creating these hats, intended to embody the key message of the memorial:

"We started off with wax moulds which were dipped in a ceramic shell, then cast in bronze... We did an acid etch to get all the lettering and detail on them and then patina to age them."

The hull and hats were then welded onto a metal frame which lies 30cm beneath the ground, set into a concrete slab, in order for the memorial to sit close to the surface of the earth, to become part of the environment.

Phala said his brief was to avoid anything "epic or monumental", which posed a significant challenge in developing the piece.

"It was very limiting. I think in epic and monumental terms, but the joy of it was the challenge... It's not like you look at it and you've got the answers, you'll still want to talk to me, you'll want to ask me questions... It's not all about what I'm saying, it's about how you perceive it. That's very important."



In small groups, discuss the following questions:

- Why do you think the SS Mendi was selected for memorialisation as part of this project?
- What is the significance of using different kinds of hats in the memorial?
 How do you feel about the idea that the memorial is designed to be at ground level, that people are able to access it, walk through, or even over it?
- Do you think this is an effective memorial? Explain your answer.





22 READING MEMORIALS

WHY DO WE TEACH (ABOUT) WAR? SHOULDN'T WE TEACH (ABOUT) PEACE?

We do not need to simply commemorate and 'honour' soldiers as we so often do – forgetting also the many, many millions more who died as well. We need, today to truly honour those men and women around the world... by abolishing war, by abolishing the incompetence, arrogance and bad decision-making which leads to and fuels war, and by training human beings – men, women, girls, boys, grandparents – in how to deal with conflicts effectively, constructively and by peaceful means. We need peace education in schools..."

Kai Brand-Jacobsen, "This November 11, let us not dishonour those who died", 6 November 2014



Use Bruce Lesh's historical thinking tool (see page 6) to analyse what this cartoon has to say about war and peace.



TEXT

When working with visual sources such as these, the entire cartoon must be read as the "text."

Describe what you see and what you can read in both the words and visuals of the cartoon.

CONTEXT

What are the visual cues that indicate when and where this cartoon is set, and what it is about?

This cartoon was published in The Daily Herald, 13 May 1919. This is the time of the Treaty of Versailles at the end of World War 1.

Who then are the characters in this cartoon?

Useful background information would be to know that the French Prime Minister Clemenceau was nicknamed the Tiger. What does this suggest about his attitude towards the Germans and ultimately ensuring future peace. Think about what he says in the cartoon!

SUBTEXT

Who was the author?
What do we know about him?

The artist was an Australian cartoonist called Will Dyson.

For whom was this source created?
Who is the audience?
Why was this source produced when it was?

This cartoon is famous as it makes an uncannily prophetic statement. The title is "Peace and Future Cannon Fodder". The 'crying child' represents the class of 1940 – World War 2 started with the invasion of Poland on 01 September 1939...the 'crying child' would be the children who would suffer the effects of this terrible war when the Treaty of Versailles at the end of the Great War was supposed to make sure that 'never again' would the world go to war!

WHERE IS WAR TAUGHT IN CAPS?



This cartoon symbolises how much attention we give to war in contrast to the "little book" on peace.

War is a recurrent theme throughout the history curriculum – consider how many times in CAPS, various conflicts, civil wars and revolutions are taught (and re-taught).

Grade 8: The Anglo-Zulu Wars, the South African War, World War 1.

Grade 9: World War 2. the Cold War.

Grade 10: The South African War, the French Revolution.

Grade 11: Russian Revolution, World War 2, Arab-Israeli conflicts.

Grade 12: The Cold War, the Vietnam War, Angola Civil War.

WHERE IS PEACE TAUGHT IN CAPS

The history of peace is far less visible in the curricula, but there are some opportunities to focus on peace, and alternatives to war, including:

Grade 8: Aspects of experiences in World War 1 - Conscription and propaganda in Britain; Conscientious objectors; Music and Poetry

Grade 9: The Rise of Nazi Germany and the outbreak of World War 2 - the end of World War 1 and the Treaty of Versailles; turning points in modern South African history; Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948); Defiance Campaign (including the influence of Gandhi)

Grade 10: Apartheid in South Africa – 1940s to 1960sGrade 11: Colonial expansion after 1750 - Cooperation and conflict on the Highveld

Grade 12: Civil society protests - 1950s to 1970s peace movements; disarmament; students
and anti-war movements; the influence of passive
resistance (Gandhi) on Martin Luther King; Civil
resistance in South Africa: 1970s to 1980s - End
Conscription Campaign (ECC)



- How can history educators use the study of war to consider strategies for peace with learners?
- What significant histories of peace are missing from CAPS?
- Can the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) be used to teach about peace?



- Visit the SAHA / STHP website to learn more about the memorial to Gandhi and passive resistance in South Africa.
- Visit SAHA's virtual exhibition on the End Conscription Campaign (ECC) to learn more about this youth movement that voiced unified opposition to increased state militarization and the conscription of white men into military service in apartheid South Africa.



- Where are conscientious objection movements active in the 21st century?
- Where is passive resistance being used as a strategy for change in the world today?



Is it the role of the history educator to teach peace?

Should we encourage our learners to become peace activists?

Would it be appropriate to get your learners to sign the UNESCO Peace Pledge?

UNESCO PEACE PLEDGE
You can sign this pledge online at the UNESCO website: http://www.unesco.org/manifesto2000
I pledge in my daily life, in my family, my work, my community, my country and my region, to:
Respect the life and dignity of each human being without discrimination or prejudice.
Practice active non-violence, rejecting violence in all its forms: physical, sexual, psychological, economical and social, in particular towards the most deprived and vulnerable such as children and adolescents.
Share my time and material resources in a spirit of generosity to put an end to exclusion, injustice and political and economic oppression.
Defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity, giving preference always to dialogue and listening without engaging in fanaticism, defamation and the rejection of others.
Promote consumer behavior that is responsible and development practices that respect all forms of life and preserve the balance of nature on the planet.
Contribute to the development of my community, with the full participation of women and respect for democratic principles, in order to create together new forms of solidarity.
You can sign this pledge online at the UNESCO website: http://www.unesco.org/manifesto2000
Signature:
Date:

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USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

All the SAHA / Sunday Times Heritage Project sources relating to the sinking of the SS Mendi can be accessed online at http://sthp.saha.org.za/memorial/reverend_isaac_wauchope.htm. All SAHA virtual exhibitions can be accessed at http://www.saha.org.za/exhibitions/virtual_exhibitions.htm.

The **Commonwealth War Graves Commission** has developed excellent material for teachers and has made a special effort to include stories like the sinking of the SS Mendi, available online at http://www.cwgc.org/learning-and-resources

Facing History and Ourselves has helpful material on practical teaching strategies to deal with emotive and controversial topics available online at http://www.facinghistory.org/foreducators/educator-resources/teaching-strategies

The War Memorials Trust has a useful education site on teaching about war memorial heritage at http://www.learnaboutwarmemorials.org/

ARCHIVAL AND IMAGE CREDITS

Front cover	Minutes signed by Louis Botha, Prime Minister's Office, ST, 24 February 1917. Source: National Archives, GG 9/124/45* Archived as SAHA collection AL3282_E1.27.1.4.6
Page 5	"Reading like an historian" classroom posters produced by the Stanford History Education Group (SHEG). Source: https://sheg.stanford.edu/intro-historical-thinking
Page 6	The SS Darro, an empty meat-packing ship destined for Argentina collided with the SS Mendi on the morning of 21 February 1917. Source: The South African National Museum of Military History. Archived as SAHA collection AL3282_E1.27.3.13.
Page 7	(left) A group of SANLC men with a convoy of Ford trucks at Njangao, 1917. The South African National Museum of Military History. Archived as SAHA collection AL3282_E1.27.3.6. (middle) Members of the SANLC at work in France during World War 1. Source: The South African National Museum of Military History. Archived as SAHA collection AL3282_E1.27.3.10. (right) Men of the SANLC digging trenches for local defence in France, 1917. The South African National
Page 8	Museum of Military History. Archived as SAHA collection AL3282_E1.27.3.11. The sinking of the SS Mendi, 21 February 1917. Source: The South African National Museum of Military History. Archived as SAHA collection AL3282_E1.27.3.15.
Page 9	(top) Newspaper clipping regarding the sinking of the SS Mendi, 1917. Source: Imvo Zabantsudu. Archived as SAHA collection AL3282_E1.27.1.6.10.
Page 13	Message from Dr. L.E. Hertslet as reproduced in S.M. Bennett Ncwana, "Souvenir Of The Mendi Disaster." Archived as SAHA collection AL3282_E1.27.1.4.2.
Page 14	Obituary of Dr. L.E. Hertslet in the South African Medical Journal, 21 May 1944. Source: http://archive.samj.org.za/.
Page 15	Images of the installation at the Tower of London entitled "Blood swept lands and seas of red", 2014. Photographer: Oosaam at English Wikipedia. Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/ Category:Blood_Swept_Lands_and_Seas_of_Red
Page 17	(left) Troops of the SANLC being inspected by King George V in France, 1917. Source: The South African National Museum of Military History. Archived as SAHA collection AL3282_E1.27.3.8. (right) The Prince of Wales reviewing veterans of the SANLC. Source: The South African National Museum of Military History. Archived as SAHA collection AL3282_E1.27.3.13.
Page 18	(top) Aerial photograph of Ypres, 1916. Source: Flanders Fields Museum Archive (bottom) Present day Ypres, 2015. Source: Anke Hoffstadt.
Page 19 Page 20	Coin commemorating the "Schwarze Schmach" campaign, 1920. Source: Flanders Fields Museum. The Delville Wood Monument. Photographer: Paul Reed. Source: http://ww1revisited.com/
Page 21	Photographs of a representation of the loss of the SS Mendi on a bronze panel depicting South Africa's participation in various campaigns during World War I at the Delville Wood Memorial in France. Source: http://allatsea.co.za
Page 22	(left) A sketch of how the artist, Madi Phala, envisaged the SAHA / Sunday Times Heritage Project memorial of the sinking of the SS Mendi. Archived as SAHA collection AL3282_A4.03. (right) This memorial sculpture is set on the site where troops of the SANLC gathered before embarking on the SS Mendi. Source: http://sthp.saha.org.za/
Page 23	Cartoon by Will Dyson, first published in The Daily Herald, 13 May 1919. Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Will_Dyson
Page 24 Back cover	Cartoon by Vejo, 28 January 2009. Source: http://www.toonpool.com. "Roll of honour of the troopship "Mendi" who were drowned at sea on the 21st February 1917" as reproduced in S.M. Bennett Ncwana, "Souvenir Of The Mendi Disaster." Archived as SAHA collection AL3282_E1.27.1.4.2.

ARCHIVAL AND IMAGES CREDITS

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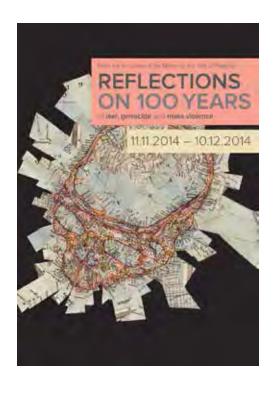
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Sele Mashuga - Senaoane Secondary School

T. Mpetukana - no organisational affiliation

Tali Nates – Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre

Zozo Jodo – O.R. Tambo Senior Secondary School



This booklet draws extensively on the archival and picture research undertaken by the SAHA / Sunday Times Heritage Project team responsible for researching the Isaac Wauchope element of this project, which culminated in the installation of a memorial in Cape Town, the related section on the SAHA/ STHP website available online at http://sthp.saha.org.za/memorial/reverend_isaac_wauchope.htm, as well as the chapter on the SS Mendi in the 2008 publication Great Lives, Pivotal Moments, which was commissioned by SAHA as part of this project, and was edited by Lauren Segal and Paul Holden. Much of the context information in the SS Mendi case study was adapted from this chapter.

The archival materials relating to this project are archived in SAHA Collection AL3282: The SAHA / Sunday Times Heritage Project collection - please see: http://www.saha.org.za/collections/the_sunday_times_heritage_project_sthp_collection_3. htm

ABOUT SAHA

Founded by anti-apartheid activists in 1988, the South African History Archive (SAHA) is an independent human rights archive dedicated to documenting, supporting and promoting greater awareness of both past and, since 1994, contemporary struggles for justice and accountability in South Africa.

For more information about SAHA's mandate, programmes and projects, please see www.saha.org.za





Roll of Honour

OF THE TROOPSHIP "MENDI." WHO WERE DROWNED AT SEA ON THE 21st FEBRUARY, 1917.

Name. 502 Daniel Magadi. 503 John Michote. 564 William Cabaza. 564 William Cabaza. 5021 Jim Maksaha. 5022 Jase Herry Kutchrusyo. 5023 Janes Herry Kutchrusyo. 5023 Janes Herry Kutchrusyo. 5023 Janes Herry Kutchrusyo. 5023 Janes Herry Kutchrusyo. 5023 John Jim	Name. Name. 9117 Paraffin Maitteh. 9118 Daniel Mkonvarna. 9119 Chatrite Malemutte. 9122 Smith Segule. 9124 Botha Madwine. 9125 Abraham Maboururi. 9125 Abraham Maboururi. 9126 Smith Segule. 9127 Abraham Maboururi. 9128 William Molnove. 9129 Mack Mekhapo. 9130 Charlis Rameho. 9130 Charlis Rameho. 9131 Jan Tokhae. 9131 Jan Tokhae. 9132 Jan Tokhae. 9134 Jan Tokhae. 9135 Charlis Maparana. 9137 Bosoboy Shitetane. 9136 Charlis Maparana. 9137 Bosoboy Shitetane. 9138 Jan Tokhae. 9140 Joseph Maake. 9141 Jack Natedi. Lice. 915 Aman Molabi. 915 Aman Molabi. 916 Jan Rassiane. 917 Andreas Marguena. 918 Fred Mukotle. 917 Andreas Marguena. 918 Fred Mukotle. 917 Jan Kashane. 918 Fred Mukotle. 918 Fred Mukotle. 919 Jan Rassiane. 918 Fred Mukotle. 919 Jan Rassiane. 918 Fred Mukotle. 919 Jan Rassiane. 919 Jan Rassiane. 919 Jan Rassiane. 918 Fred Mukotle. 919 Jan Rassiane. 919 Jan Rassiane. 919 Jan Rassiane. 919 Jan Rassiane. 910 Jan Rassiane. 911 Jack No. I Madume. 912 Jan Mangwen. 913 Frank Takiel 913 Kasa Mogabobutha. 914 Jack No. I Madume. 915 Rassiane. 916 Seek Nogane. 917 Propriet Mangies. 918 Frederick Ramerumo. 918 Jack Mangies. 919 Jan Boo. 910 Jan Boo. 910 Jan Boo. 911 Jan Boo. 911 Jan Boo. 912 Jan Boo. 913 Jan Boo. 9		No. Name. 9186 Joseph Lesiba. Jark Moetala. 9188 Jark Moetala. 9188 Altred Lekaure 9191 Johnsa Moananatuga. 1919 Johnsa Magoba. 1919 Johnsa Magoba. 1919 Johnsa Magoba. 1919 Johnsa Magoba. 1920 Jaka Nawana. 1920 Jaka Nawanana. 1921 Jark Nawanana. 1921 Jark Nawanana. 1921 Jark Nawanana. 1922 Jark Nawanana. 1923 Johnsa Madilinia. 1923 Johnsa Madilinia. 1924 Jim Sibaleha. 1925 Johnsa Madilinia. 1924 Jim Sibaleha. 1925 Jark Nawanana. 1926 Jark Jark Jark Jark Jark Jark Jark Jark	No. 1920 1
9575 Bullar Martinus Ntsieng. 9576 Ephraim Mafadi. 9578 John Kladi. 9580 Koni Luhlongwana.	9700 Joseph Mongologa, 9702 Paul Telesmokea		0.769 7	9923 Style Setani, 9922 July Mdunyelwa, 9923 Kleinbooi Petela, 9924 Hezekiali Matshana,
9590 Johannes Tamasinya. 9599 Ephrain: Perike.	9706 Percy Tiya. 9707 George Bade. 9708 Lucas Gabutloeloc.		9785 John Kuse. 9792 Russel Palmer Meanyana 9793 Studien Directile	9927 Jeremiah Masaleni.
9623 Natal Kazimula. 9625 Picanin Resinali.	9709 William Mange. 9710 Jim Jonas. 9711 Malgos Plaatjes.		9795 James Ndeya. 9797 Kleinbooi Moloi.	9931 Isaac Mirella. 9932 Hlanga Malgas. 9934 Mlungu Nyazonko
9828 Moskein Kazamula. 9827 Jim Mkomazi. 9829 Whisky Mahlaba.	9711 Malgos Plaatjes. 9714 Freddy Williams. 9716 Picannin Ntabani. 9717 Jan Pitso.			9937 John Zatu. 9938 Thomas Ntsutswana. 9939 Gabayi Mtshotshisa.
9627 Jim Mkomazi. 9629 Whisky Mahlaba. 9630 Jim Tumberi. 9631 Frans Madzibana. 9632 Jan Mscsenyane.	9718 George Modisoatsile. 9721 John Mpoa. 9724 Jackson Serewe.		9803 Abrams Jackson, 9805 Tom Somatehunga	9943 James Hendricks. 9944 Samuel Sebadi. 9945 Sampson Moeng.
9634 Charles Newambene. 9635 Ben Manzane. 9636 Konish Kyambana.	9728 Soloman Lekgoli. 9733 Jan Rampunye. 9736 Jim Mkumguri.		9816 George Sekonyela, 9817 Incolus Sibisi	9947 Sebolai Likgoli. 9950 Tacob Motaung.
9637 Jan Ngwanewa 9638 July Mudungazi. 9639 Konisars Nkomandi. 9640 Johannes Zingwana.	9739 Ames Mositsi. 9740 Kleinbooi Kgobpsemang 9741 Jan Mothei. 9742 Zachariah Tankobong. 9743 Samuel Mokgwere.		9819 Titus Molelekoa. 9820 Kleinbooi Kgadile.	9951 Incoh Gwatenea
9641 Bideni Ndanise. 9643 Klass Mahohoda.	9744 Abraham Suping.		9924 Philip Poko. 9825 Johannes Monoke. 9826 Harry Maphoto.	10002 Mainta Makoba
OCAC Torolo Masslemunta Music	9745 Billem Timpane. 9746 Rabintoe Ramasi. 9748 Namatshan Letebele. 9749 Enos Ngake.	•	9829 Geelbooi Lepero. 9831 Willie Mijana. 9833 George Ramkosi.	10013 Jan Oakala. 10016 Joel Ballana. 10017 Alkokeli Bovi.
9847 Lennu Galimini Msiya. 9848 Edward Qaba. 9849 Jeremiah Tywalana. 9850 Vimba Collis. 9851 Mnyeliso Mdyogolo.	9751 Abel Matsang. 9753 Charlie Thebeagae. 9754 Annaniya Dentlaha. 9755 William Sikawuleb. 9757 Albert Masade.		9831 Willie Mijana, 9833 George Rankosi, 9834 Lazarus Puic, 9835 Philip Monyako, 9838 Letsic Molthlakane, 9839 Benjamin Mukole	10020 Simon Linganiso, 10021 Hamilton Kali
9652 Gama Mnyeliso. 9653 Zilandana Ngqotoza. 9654 Jamse Ngwane. 9655 Meji Solani.	9755 William Sikawuleb. 9757 Albert Masade. 9758 Abram Tshulo. 9760 Moses Matume.		0010 1-1	10024 Johannes Nongwe, 10027 Diek Mandabade
9656 Smith Roadway. 9657 Thomas Plaatje. 9658 John Menza. 9659 Lucas Letwatwa.	9761 Michele Lithaba. 9763 Stephen Legoabe. 9768 John Meitshwa.		9850 Villiam Pasoane. 9851 Alexander I'ala. 9853 Marcus Matshe. 9854 Jacob Tabuli. 9857 Jacob Malcwane.	10364 Jim Lesibana. 10365 Jack Madubanya. 10366 Lucas Maluse.
9659 Lucas Letwatwa. 9660 Vellum Mohass.	9770 Edward Mduna. 9771 Durward Ngcenge.		9859 Samuel Ndiki. 9860 Charlie Tshenene. 9862 Litye Nötele. 9889 John Niwenkwe. 9892 Anderson Soka.	10368 Jim Matsubane. 10369 Daniel Lesiba. 10370 Frans Matsubane. 10371 Simon Lesiba.
No. Name. 10384 Jan Lesiba. 10431 Joseph Tshite.	No. Name. 11086 Hiongwana Mlando. 11087 Sikonyana Zwane.		9896 George Ramathodi. 9897 Frant Makovant.	10372 Jack Tschlana. 10373 Charlie Lesitja. 10374 Jack Kenisa.
10433 Benjamin Mogorosi; 10434 Pinefas More. 10897 Gilmore Ratskogo. 10896 Josiah Walter Koalanc.	11088 Hiongwana Kula. 11089 Sukwana Zwane. 11090 Hiongwana Mangaliso. 11091 Ngqakamatshe Tshange.		9898 Johannes Makudu. 9901 Johannes Myce. 9902 Job Ramasita.	10375 Jack Maneka, 10377 Jack Moshimane, 10378 Johannes Papetje,
10899 Jan Modisane, 10900 Paulus Pietersen.	11091 Rigqakamatshe Ishange. 11092 Hiongwana Magaju. 11093 Hiongwana Magudiwana. 11094 Hiongwana Totwana.		9905 Helon Ketskai. 9907 Seth Sello, 9908 Martinus Lesitja.	10381 Charlie Maluse. 10382 Frans Maluse.
10912 Charlie Sitole. 10928 Charlie Quzula. 10929 Joe Voyela.	11096 Hlongwana Zambezi. 11097 Zondo Nsulansula. 11098 Langeni Baleni.		9909 Cawood Qwebe. No. Name.	10383 Jacob Madimetja. No. Name.
10931 Willie Kazamula, 10947 William Leshage, 10948 Kleinbook Sifaku.	1109 Koza Mgingana, . 11101 Hlatshwayo Mandwane.		11164 Andries Abraham. 11165 July Tentata. 11166 Piet Oliphant.	11186 Picennin Matkala. 11187 Piet Ntopi. 11188 Piet Etea.
10949 Jim Madume. 10950 John Tsase. 10951 Frans Liwela. 10953 Koos Mofokeng.	11103 Magida Zondo, 11105 Hlongwana Magwegwan: 11107 Mqobo Sitebe, 11108 Toniseni Myula		11167 Julius Masoling.	11189 Philip Moloi. 11190 Johannes Matlala. 11191 Stephanus Sekote.
10954 Selepe Seathlane. 10957 Mpalakela Motsoahai. 10958 Simon Mokhali.	11108 Joniseni Mvula. 11109 Mavela Mtembu. 11110 Hlongwana Tabotsha. 11112 Marwala Kumalo.		11169 Freidy Bungane. 11170 Elijah Chesa. 11171 Francis Holoane. 11172 John Fidyoli. 11173 Robinson Khaile.	11192 Johannes Lesoule. 11193 Titus Ramakalane. 11194 Andries Molife. 11196 David Job Lephethe.
10959 Edward Monahela. 10960 Dovey Kholopane. 10962 Eliah Motehang.	11114 Mulakabi Zondo. 11115 Pukwana Zondo. 11116 Mgoiki Sitole.		11174 Paul Tshikari. 11176 Mali Kana. 11177 John Clout Nziba.	11198 John Tyilo, 11202 Theodore George Sikota.
10964 Simeon Rabi. 10965 Klaas Mahloapitseng.	11118 Ndukwana Mhlanga. 11120 Zanempi Hlope. 11121 Keve Mapalais.		11178 Walter Morolang. 11179 Frans Rakau. 11180 Philemon Seticko.	11204 Billy Mgidi. 11205 Ebenezer Nyovane. 11206 Willie Gobizitwana.
11045 Lawrence Jubile, 11046 Bob Phaladi, 11047 Philemon Pulana,	11122 Zula Mabaso. 11126 Fishi Hlatshwayo. 11128 Pikiti Ndaba.		11182 Hermanus Skham.	11207 Alfred Mzayifana. 11215 Ndabana Makaye. 11216 John Gumede.
11048 Jan Kopane. 11049 Johannes Suping. 11051 Ben Sydney Nukula. 11052 James Pambili.	11129 Sam Swarts, 11130 Jan Swarts, 11131 Pieter Olijn, 11132 Willem Hendricks.		11184 Aaron Rampomane. 11185 Jack Jantji Makoe.	11240 Edmund Sibizo. 11477 John Lifa.
11053 George Nini. 11054 Picannin Ngate.	11133 Dolf Paulus. 11135 Martinus March.			
11055 Longone Mayikinwa. 11057 Jacob Marofula, 11058 William Nduna.	11138 Piet Eland. 11140 Sam Mbikwa. 11141 Ishmael Lefi.			
11059 Keos Ponyose. 11060 Jim Ndhluli. 11061 Ben Elias Mgade.	11142 Josiah Sekoro. 11143 Joseph Ramatea. 11144 Lucas Kgatjane. 11148 Tsusa Nepthale.		My deep sympathy with the m Labour Corps who made	
I1062 Johannes Kakgokong. 11063 Jan Lesetja. 11064 Jan Rabatji. 11065 Johannes Mambolo.	11145 Tsusa Nepthale. 11146 Amandus Aupa Pasoane. 11147 Samuel Ratilulu. 11149 lack Muros.		the first German V	
11066 Hosiah Mapheto. 11067 Windvogel Mahaladi. 11068 MashayaZimuke.	11150 Piet Mangapela. 11151 Goodman Modikeng. 11152 Michael Montso.		J. D. TSA Vice-Cha	
11069 Mac Mali. 11070 Windvogel Beyulea. 11071 Windvogel Captain Maseko.	11153 Phineas Tanoni, 11154 Isaac Mahludi, 11155 Iail Miahleki,		Peninsula Commercial	
1072 otama Mzono.	11157 Ben Sikwayo.			

