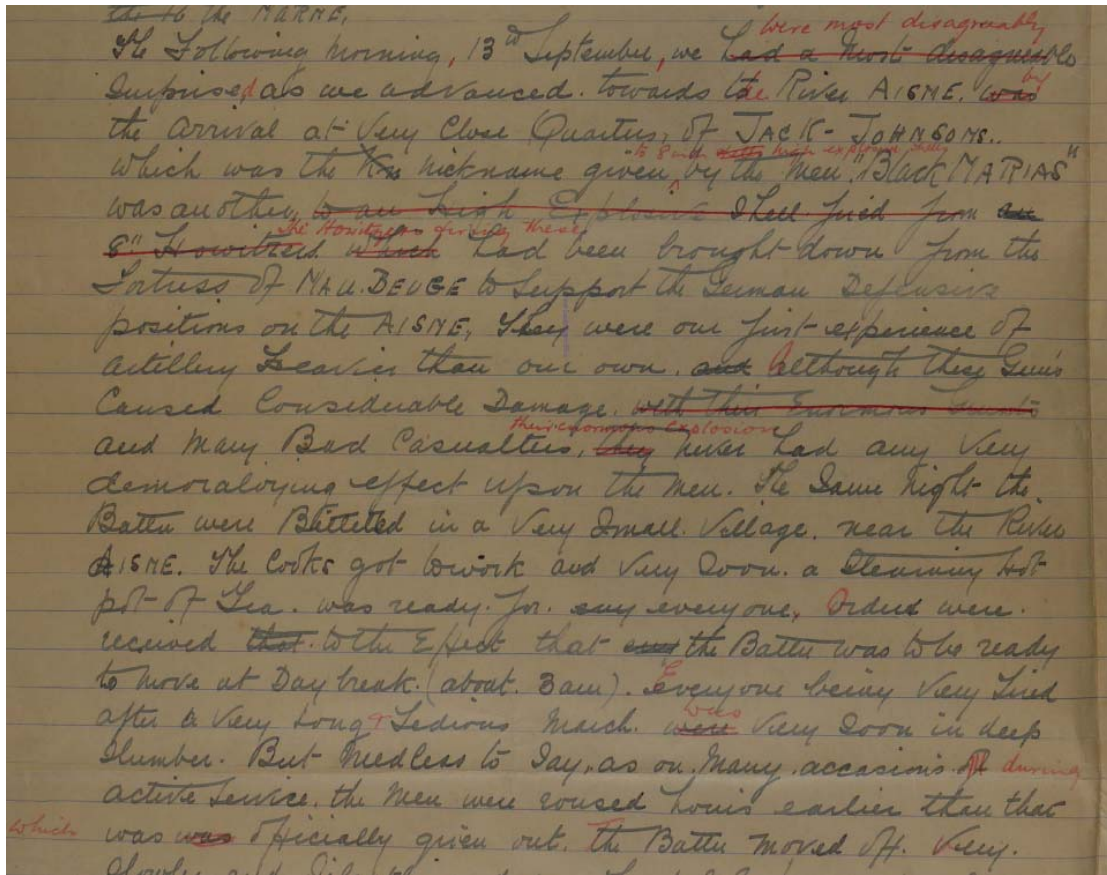


Learning Resources for Teachers:

Learning Resource: **William Rainsford**



WSRO Acc 15444

Clue 3- Diary entry for 13 Sept 1914

"The following morning, 13th September, we were most disagreeably surprised as we advanced towards the River AISNE by the arrival at very close quarters of JACK-JOHNSONS which was the nickname given to 8 inch high explosive shells by the men. "Black MARIAS" was another. The Howitzer firing these had been brought down from the fortress of MAUBEUGE to support the German defensive positions on the AISNE. They were our first experience of artillery heavier than our own. Although these guns caused considerable damage and many bad casualties their enormous explosion never had any demoralising effect upon the men.