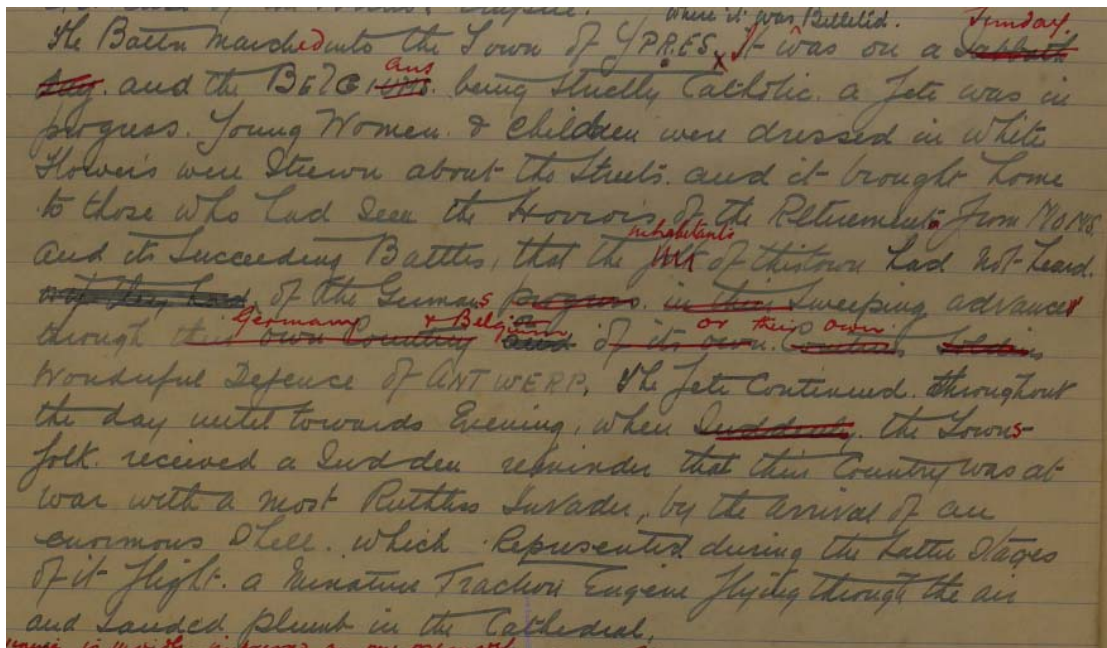


Learning Resources for Teachers:

Learning Resource: **William Rainsford**



WSRO Acc 15444

Clue 5 - Diary entry 3 Description of Ypres (around 21st October 1914)

"The Battalion marched into the town of Ypres where it was to be billeted (billeted- found somewhere to sleep). It was on a Sunday and the Belgians being strictly Catholic, a fete (a street party) was in progress. Young women and children were dressed in white. Flowers were strewn about the streets and it brought home to those who had seen the horrors of the retirement from Mons and its succeeding battles. That the inhabitants of this town had not heard of the Germans sweeping advance through Germany and Belgium or their own wonderful defence of Antwerp. The fete continued throughout the day until towards evening, when the townsfolk received a sudden reminder that this country was at war with a most ruthless invader. By the arrival of an enormous shell, this represented during the latter stages of its flight, a miniature traction engine flying through the air and landed plumb in the Cathedral."