

Gallipoli100 Evaluation – Cumbria’s Museum of Military Life

The museum worked on two projects:

- A Young People’s project – exhibition and commemorative service
- Gretna Primary School, class P7 – Quintinshill commemoration assembly

1. Young Peoples’ Project

- Timescale – October 2014 to April 2015 – monthly meetings plus additional meetings in the holidays. Evening exhibition opening event and Saturday commemorative service.

Quantitative evaluation

- 4 Young People took part – 2 male/2 female aged 17/18 years plus 1 male volunteer. The Museum Curator and the Museum Learning Officer
- Project involved learning about the Gallipoli campaign, using the Museum archives for research, learning how to put together an exhibition, writing text and choosing photographs, proof reading panels, installation of exhibition, hosting visitors at opening, reading at commemorative service.
- Project result – an exhibition held at the Museum from April to June 2015
- A commemorative service held on Sat 25th April at Carlisle Castle

Qualitative evaluation:

Video footage at <http://www.itv.com/news/border/search/?q=gallipoli#> and <http://gallipoli100education.org.uk/schoolprojects/carlisle/>

Student interviews

Kirsten Blackwood, age 18

From this project I have learned how to work as a team to plan an exhibition which has been quite challenging at times. I have also learned how to use archives to find out information that I need to know and I have enjoyed most reading personal accounts of the Gallipoli campaign as they show us what it was truly like.

I have learned a lot about the campaign from doing this project from the landing to the evacuation but the most memorable thing was definitely the conditions and hardships, especially the flies and frostbite!

Sean Poole, age 18

While working on the project, I've learned just how hastily organised the campaign was. I've gained an insight into how the soldiers and officers faced both neglect from their commanders, and shortages of basic commodities. I can only imagine a sense of disappointment being felt by the men who participated - realising that their best efforts and scars were for nothing...

I've had a great time working on this project, and it's very satisfying to see all the hard work finally coming together. I've gained a lot from this experience; a truly hands on experience with history, an encyclopaedic knowledge into the Gallipoli campaign (sort of) and I've met some brilliant new friends too!

Caroline Angus, age 18

What have you learnt about the campaign?

Overall I've learned a lot about all the different aspects of the campaign, but what I know will stick with me is all I've learnt about what conditions soldiers had to live through in Gallipoli. It was something I hadn't really thought much about before researching Gallipoli, I just thought of the dangers of war being just your enemy and the bullets they're firing at you. However it was really the extreme conditions of searing heat, then freezing cold, with the poor hygiene and the masses of flies that really made Gallipoli unbearable for the people there. I think learning what those soldiers had to put up with, whilst trying to fight an uphill battle against an enemy who had the advantage from the start makes me admire their sacrifices more and more.

What have you gained through being involved in the project?

Working at the museum has been really great as it's allowed me to get my first experience working with a museum's collections and artefacts, which was really good fun. But I've also learnt how to look at these collections and use them to present this really interesting information to the public in an engaging way. It's been a great experience and I'm really astonished and proud of what we've been able to achieve together.

Tom Skelhorne, age 17

What have you learnt about the campaign?

During my time within the group I feel I have learnt quite a lot about the campaign. When the project idea was first brought forward to me, if I'm honest, I had no idea where Gallipoli was, and I definitely did not know that British soldiers fought there let alone the local Regiment, the 1st and 6th Battalions of the Border Regiment. Over the last few months I have learnt that it was not just ANZAC forces out in Gallipoli and that it was originally thought as a naval campaign through the Dardanelles. The 1st Battalion, The Border Regiment landed in Gallipoli on the 25th April 1915, however, the original planned landing was actually the 23rd April, but got "postponed" to the 25th due to bad weather, you'd think as Cumbrians they'd be used to a bit of bad weather but never mind. It has been noted that the Border Regiment lost a majority of its officers during the first few days of the campaign from the 25th to the 28th April.

One major point that has shocked a lot of us in the group was the weather. You think about Turkey, and you instantly think sun. But we found that the soldiers experienced an extreme change with the weather during their period of being there from April 1915 to January 1916. The heat during the initial phases of the campaign had left the ground bone dry and made the fighting hard as the soldiers were on water rations due to a mass shortage. However, as the campaign progressed, there were accounts of flooding in the trenches, which ended up with 3 foot of water overnight in some cases. Come November, Gallipoli became extremely cold and many soldiers got frostbite or perished in the cold conditions.

What have you gained through being involved in the project?

This project has definitely been a learning curve for me. When Jules initially came to me with the idea of setting up a youth group to create a project to commemorate the Gallipoli campaign I really didn't know what to think. We had a couple of meetings on how we could get people interested and it took us a couple of months to get it sorted, people came and went, but the group we gained in the end I am immensely proud of and what we have achieved and how we have worked together to get this project together really puts a smile on my face. I feel whilst working with this group I have picked up a range of skills from museum work, text writing for an exhibition, teamwork, co-operation, IT skills, and an increased knowledge of the history of our local regiment.

I have realised that by doing this it creates a positive image for young people as we've been known to get a bad name and not do anything with ourselves, but surely this project will go out there and show the community that this is what young people can do. That we are capable, and we can put together something impressive. To have the chance to display it in a well-recognised establishment such as the military museum really makes me feel proud about what we have done but also motivated; we have to get more young people involved in the history of our local area, spread the word of what had happened in the past, and especially with the centenary of WW1, we want the stories of the individuals we have researched and many more to be remembered and recognised for future generations. Schools do teach us about certain aspects of history and WW1, but they only cover a tiny percentage of what happened; they do not delve into the individual stories, the experiences. This opportunity with the youth group has been able to further my knowledge and a sense of what I feel needs to be known about the past, and that as a young person we need to remember the great sacrifice this county made for the freedom we have today.

2. Quintinshill Rail Disaster Project

- Timescale – 17th March to 18th May 2015
- Museum Learning Officer visited the school weekly to deliver the project (minus school holidays!) and there was one visit to the Museum

Quantitative evaluation

- 31 x P7s (11/12years) – 16 male & 15 female with one female teacher plus Museum Learning Officer (& Curator when visiting Museum) & freelance drama practitioner
- All participants undertook the Arts Award 'Discover' as part of this project (funded by CONNECT Learning Network)
- Project involved introduction to WW1 and Gallipoli campaign, using historical sources to find out about Quintinshill, formulating a dramatic piece working with a drama practitioner and presenting this to an audience
- Project result – commemorative drama piece for an assembly focussing on the Quintinshill rail disaster of May 1915 presented to parents and rest of school

Qualitative evaluation

- The students were asked about the project after its completion:
- **What did you learn from the project?** The children all said they learnt about the Quintinshill disaster. Who was involved and the location of Quintinshill. How people helped others 100 years ago. How difficult it was to pass information on before mobile phones! How people got to the crash scene on their bikes; how local people rushed to the scene to help the injured and dead.
- **Have you learnt to do something whilst doing this project?** The children agreed that they had learnt different skills through the drama piece and didn't realise they could put together an assembly in such a short space of time! They learnt to sing 'Pack up your troubles', use historical sources to find out about the accident and put together a dramatic piece based on their findings.

- **What did you feel whilst you were finding out about Quintinshill?** How awful the crash was; how difficult it was to get the emergency services to the scene; what it was like for those trapped inside the train; what it was like for those who arrived at the crash site
- All the class said they had enjoyed the project. Some of the class wanted to find out more about the war and some were keen to continue doing drama and singing
- All the class took part in the Arts Award Discover and were presented with certificates.