



Theme 8

World War I: To Play or Not to Play?

Pupil Activity Sheet 2

Roland Hely Owen

1. Read the first paragraph. Which is the strongest clue that Roland Owen was a very good rugby union footballer?

- a) He was an army officer.
- b) He played rugby union for Yorkshire.
- c) He was captain of Huddersfield Old Boys Rugby Union Football Club.

2. Read the second paragraph. Why was Huddersfield Old Boys Rugby Union Football Club forced to stop playing matches?

3. Read the section 'Roland Owen's Letter'. Which two words describe how Roland felt about the continuation of rugby and association football?

- a) clearly
- b) annoyed
- c) frustrated
- d) volunteered

4. Read the second column on the first page. Use your ruler to draw straight lines that join the subjects of the following sentences to their action.

- | | | |
|------|---|--|
| i) | Roland Owen | sent the letter to a newspaper. |
| ii) | The Secretary of Huddersfield Old Boys Rugby Union FC | created a picture from the ideas in the letter. |
| iii) | The <i>Weekly Dispatch</i> | added a caption to turn the picture into a recruitment poster. |
| iv) | The War Office | wrote a letter that criticised rugby and association footballers who had not volunteered for the armed forces. |

5. Look at the poster. What clue can you find that the soldier with the rifle is wounded?

6. From the list of words below, choose the **two** that best describe how the poster tried to make young men who played and watched rugby and association football feel.

a) guilty b) confident c) joyful d) ashamed

7. Complete the following sentence to explain the two words you chose in question 6.

The young men still playing and watching rugby and association football were likely to

feel _____ and _____ when they saw this poster

because _____

8. Read the paragraph headed 'The Effects of the Poster'. Which word from the four below best completes the following sentence about the effects of the poster?

The number of young men who played and watched rugby and association football who recruiting for the armed forces _____ .

a) began b) increased c) decreased d) ceased

9. Read 'The Battle of Hill 60'. Use your ruler to draw straight lines that join the soldiers to their fate in this battle.

Lance Corporal Coates

Lieutenant Roland Owen

Corporal AE Wilkinson

killed

survived to write about it

badly wounded

10. Where was Lieutenant Owen' platoon sheltering by 5.30pm on Sunday 18 April?

- a) front line trenches b) a dug-out
c) communications trenches d) crater created when a shell exploded

11. Write one sentence from Corporal Wilkinson's letter that shows he admired Lieutenant Owen.

12. What caused the injuries to Owen and Coates shortly after they left their place of shelter?

- a) a shell b) rifle fire c) machine gun fire d) a bomb

13. Read the caption under the last picture. About how many years old was Lieutenant Roland Owen in 1915?

- a) 22 b) 32 c) 42 d) 52

14. About one in every ten (10%) of British soldiers who fought in World War I were killed. Read the last paragraph. Which number completes the following sentence?

The proportion of Huddersfield Old Boys rugby footballers who went to war who were killed is one in ____ .

- a) 12 b) 10 c) 6 d) 3

15a) Write two adjectives to describe how this World War I story makes you feel.

15b) Why does this story make you feel like this?
