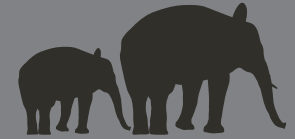


# Passchendaele Mud Run

## ELEPHANT TURF Citizenship



### The Adventure :

In the fall of 1917, Canadian forces fought in the Battle of Passchendaele in northern Belgium. This part of Europe is low-lying and close to the ocean, and months of war had destroyed the ditches that the Belgians relied on to keep the land dry. When the weather turned in the autumn, the area became a muddy mess—horrible living and fighting conditions for both sides.

The ruined village of Passchendaele was the high ground in the region. On November 6, 1917, the “City of Winnipeg” 27th Battalion attacked Passchendaele to

take it from the Germans. Four days later, the village was secured, at the expense of over 16,000 casualties.

To recreate the conditions the brave soldiers endured, visit a mud pit at your local Scout Camp, or find a safe place to build your own. In clothing that you don’t mind ruining, try to race across the pit, crawl across the pit and even hide in the pit! Remember to count your blessings when you enjoy a refreshing swim or a warm shower when you’re done.



Terrain at Passchendaele, late 1917

### Online Resources:

- The Battle of Passchendaele
- Passchendaele
- Personal Hygiene

### Safety note:

- Consider playing in the mud a water activity. What safety rules do you need to follow?
- Wash thoroughly after your mud run.

### Plan:

- When and where will you share this adventure?
- What challenges will you try in the mud?
- How will you clean up afterward?
- How can you ensure the mud pit is safe?

### Do:

- Take part in the “Passchendaele Mud Run”!

### Review:

- What do you know now that you did not know before?
- What is the dirtiest you have ever been (other than today)? How did you feel?
- What challenges do you think the mud posed to the soldiers?
- How did it feel to wear your clothes when things got muddy?
- How do you imagine the soldiers dealt with being surrounded by mud?

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It starts with Scouts.