Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Wednesday 10 June 2020

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes) | Paper Reference **9HI0/35**

History

Advanced
Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth
Option 35.1: Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914
Option 35.2: The British experience of warfare, c1790–1918

Sources Booklet

Do not return this booklet with the question paper.

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Sources for use with Section A.

Answer the question in Section A on the option for which you have been prepared.

Option 35.1: Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914

Source for use with Question 1.

Source 1: From the diary of Lieutenant R.F. Meiklejohn, 12 September 1898. Meiklejohn had been in the British Army for six years and had served in both Africa and India. Here he is writing about the Battle of Omdurman.

Our force had moved down from Egypt in early August and our 8,000 British troops linked up with about 17,000 from the armies of Egypt and the Sudan. These native forces were commanded, and had been trained, by British officers with experience of campaigns in India and Africa. It was estimated that the Dervishes* had about 50,000 in their force. Our commander, Kitchener, had sent out a cavalry group to scout the enemy positions and to assess the landscape, which was an open plain with very little cover of any kind. They came back with information that helped the commanders to form the plans for the battle.

Our greatest concern was that the Dervishes would attack at night. This would have made it difficult for us to use our firepower, especially our magazine rifles and our machine guns, to maximum effect. Their numbers could have given them an advantage in hand-to-hand fighting. In order to deter a night attack the ground in front of our lines was swept all night by the searchlights of our fleet of gunboats. We later discovered that the Dervish commanders doubted their ability to command and control their men in darkness. The gunboats were also used to bombard the enemy positions and to hit Omdurman itself including the Mahdi's tomb, which was a very sacred site in the eyes of the Dervish forces.

Just after dawn the enemy cavalry charged with reckless daring. They aimed to break through our lines and divert our fire to create an opening for their infantry. These fearless fanatics faced certain death but advanced with flashing swords. A continuous stream of our bullets was killing riders until not a single horseman was left. We had to admire their devotion to a cause.

The Dervish infantry also showed reckless courage with a total lack of concern for their lives. They charged forward like a wave and hundreds planted their banners in the ground and then rallied round them until they were killed. They all seemed inspired by the Black Banner of their leader, but were cut down by the concentration of rifle, machine-gun and shell fire. Kitchener then ordered his forces forward to destroy any resistance and to destroy the Mahdi's tomb in order to avenge the brutal killing of Major-General Gordon at Khartoum.

*Dervishes – native soldiers in the Mahdist army

Option 35.2: The British experience of warfare, c1790–1918

Source for use with Question 2.

Source 2: From a letter written by Florence Nightingale to Sidney Herbert, the Secretary at War, 25 November 1854. She was writing from the Barrack Hospital at Scutari.

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My dearest friend, you would not believe what is here. It is hard to know how to begin to tell you of the conditions that I have found. There is no provision for adequate washing for either the medical staff or for the bleeding and wounded soldiers. There is a lack of clean water and a whole shipment of linen, which is needed urgently, cannot be found.

A large London hospital might have 500 patients in any night but here we receive up to 2,500. I deeply regret that the death rate is averaging 100 every night.

Mr Andrew Smith, the Chief Medical Officer of the British Army, assured me that there were no shortages and that all supplies were in safe hands. I have not found this to be the case. Mr Smith added that it was embarrassing to him that he was being asked to rely on 'a small group of well-meaning ladies'.

When we talked in London you suggested the possibility of setting up a Commission of Inquiry. This must be done at the earliest opportunity. The Government has been deceived by the information sent. We have been shown impressive lists of stores sent from home but very little has reached us. I have had to rely on money from a fund set up by *The Times* newspaper to purchase basic necessities. There are insufficient beds and very little cooking equipment or fresh provisions. The dead lie all around us often sown into blankets and such indignity attracts little notice.

I appreciate the work done by Mr MacDonald of *The Times,* who established the fund, and over half the medical equipment that I have ordered is being paid for by that fund. No senior officer of the British Army has been to see me.

There have been no cases of cholera but there has been a great deal of dysentery and about half of our amputation cases do not survive surgery. The lack of hygiene plays a part but I am also alarmed by the ignorant, conceited and idle attitude of some of the young surgeons.

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