

Mary Symon (1863-1938)

Mary Symon wis born at Dufftown on 25 September 1863. She had poetry imprentit in her early years but wid become maist kent fir her poems in Scots anent the First World War.

In 'After Neuve Chapelle' Mary Symon extol's the efforts o the Gordon Highlanders an the sodgers o the wider British Empire in the bluidy battle o Mairch 1915. At the same time she condemns whit she sees as the skivers, or 'laggards' wha hae yet tae jyne up fir military action.

Her best kent poems, 'The Glen's Muster Roll'; 'The Dominie Loquitur' an 'The Soldiers Cairn' deal wi the immediate ettercome o war on a rural community.

1. Whit can ye airt oot about
 - a) The Gordon Highlanders during the First World War an
 - b) the Battle o Neuve Chapelle, Mairch 1915?

Yaise the link ablow an mak notes in aither Scots or English.

Scotland's War: <http://edinburghs-war.ed.ac.uk>

The Gordon Highlanders in the First World War	The Battle o Neuve Chapelle 1915

2. In 'After Neuve Chapelle' Mary Symon cried fowk that didnae jyne up 'laggards'. Why dae ye think she did this?
3. Dae ye think she wis richt?
4. Whit daes it tell ye about the wey fowk thocht at the stert o the First World War?
5. Mak a poster tae upsteer young laddies in 1914 tae jyne the airmie an become sodgers. Mind an mak oot that it's braw an brave tae list as a sodger.
6. Whit dae ye think o sic First World War recruitin posters? Wid they wise ye tae list as a sodger? Explain yer answer.
7. How come Mary Symon isnae as weel kent as ither First World War srievers sic as Siegfried Sasoon, Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke an Robert Graves? Wark wi a pairtner an scribe 3 or mair reasons.

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8. Whit maks Mary Symon's poetry different tae aw these ither srievers?
9. Hae a wee luik at 'The Soldier's Cairn' an 'The Glen's Muster Roll'. In whit weys did Mary Symon's poetry cheenge effir the war?

Can ye think o ony reasons fir this?