**The Impact of Terrain on Help for the Wounded**

**Source A**

Advance started 6.30 am. First wounded arrive 8 am very busy, wounded coming in by hundreds, the road to hospital like the way to a football match, a pathetic sight, the men lined up 4 deep to be dressed…

Midnight sent on dressing wounds straight away, working all night, terrible wounds—doing dressings in a dug out by the aid of a candle. Very tired, one death in the night, men moaning in agony…terrible bombardment all night shaking the place, never to be forgotten night.

***(Diary of Private Frank Ridsdale, 1 July 1916)***

1. **To which battle does Source A refer?**
2. **What does Source A tell us about the conditions faced by those who were wounded, and by those treating the wounded?**

**Source B**

During operations in early May, around 3,000 cases were being admitted into field ambulances on a daily basis in the 3rd Army alone. The only real problem experienced by the medical services was operating under heavy fire and some dressing stations and CCSs had to be moved when shells landed in the vicinity of Arras. The Director of Medical Services of the 3rd Army had planned for heavy casualties and the Army was equipped with twelve CCSs and twenty‐eight ambulance trains—a number far in excess of that which had served front‐line units on the Somme. As a result, CCSs never became badly congested and, on some days, these units were working at below capacity.

***(War Diary of 3rd Army, April-May 1917, The National Archives, WO95/381)***

1. **To which battle does Source B refer?**
2. **What does Source B tell us about the conditions faced by those treating the wounded? Were these conditions always negative?**

**Source C**

At Passchendaele the mud was so deep that six to eight men were needed to carry a single stretcher and, even then, their pace would be little more than a crawl. Clearing the battlefield in such conditions was ‘sickening’ and ‘heart‐breaking’ work, but revulsion often gave way to a ‘sense of unreality’. Struggling against mud and heavy fire, the work of the bearer seemed ‘almost futile’. Bearers were often to be found lying exhausted after long carries to aid posts, and were unable to continue working until they had rested. This sometimes gave rise to accusations that bearers were lazy or had ‘cold feet’; an allegation that gave rise to a great deal of bitterness and recrimination.

***(Account of Private J.W. Upton, 137th Field Artillery on the Western Front)***

**Source D**

The difficulties faced by the 135th Field Ambulance at Bourlon Wood clearly illustrate the problems encountered by many medical units in forward positions at Cambrai. On 23 November, the commander, Capt. J. Minnett, contacted the base, informing his superiors that the extra stretcher bearers and ambulance cars he had requested from the 40th Division had not arrived and that he had been forced to use German prisoners to help with stretcher bearing and work at the dressing stations. Two days later, they reporting ‘deplorable conditions’ at Flesquières. There, the wounded had been lying on the ground for nearly two days, enduring terrible suffering.

***(Diary of Captain J. Minnett, 135th Field Ambulance, 23-25 November 1917)***

1. **To which battle does Source D refer?**
2. **Using Source C and D, describe two features of:**
* **the terrain at Passchendaele (3rd Battle of Ypres).**
* **the conditions in which stretcher bearers faced at the Battles of Ypres.**