



## EXPERT ALERT PASSCHENDAELE CENTENARY

### Charlotte Czyzyk Historian at Imperial War Museums

*On 31 July 1917, the British forces launched a major offensive around the Belgian town of Ypres in an attempt to capture German U-boat bases on the Belgian coast. The Third Battle of Ypres, also known as Passchendaele, took place between 31 July and 10 November 1917. The campaign was fought in appalling weather conditions: muddy ground threatened to drown the men, guns could not be transported and low cloud grounded aerial reconnaissance planes. By the end of the offensive, the Allied forces had sustained over 320,000 casualties, and had gained just five miles of the Ypres Salient.*



Charlotte is able to talk about Passchendaele, the Third Battle of Ypres, including the events that led up to the battle, its significance and its impact. She is also able to bring to life the personal stories of the men who fought, and why it is important for people today to remember these stories.

Charlotte joined Imperial War Museums in 2003, and during this time, she has worked in a number of roles. Since March 2014 she has worked on the *Lives of the First World War* project, a digital memorial aiming to remember all of the eight million who served Britain and the Commonwealth during the First World War. In her spare time, Charlotte is a freelance tour guide of the First World War battlefields in France and Belgium.

**Charlotte is available for interview on 25 and 26 July at IWM North, and on 30 and 31 July 2017 in Ypres, Belgium.**

To arrange an interview with Charlotte on 25 or 26 July at IWM North, please contact Poppy Andrews, Press Officer, on [poandrews@iwm.org.uk](mailto:poandrews@iwm.org.uk) or call 020 7091 3069.

To arrange an interview with Charlotte on 30 or 31 July in Ypres, please contact Alicia Powell, Assistant Press Officer, on [apowell@iwm.org.uk](mailto:apowell@iwm.org.uk) or call 020 7416 5436.