

Pack 3: Year 7

Trench conditions: What was trench warfare like?



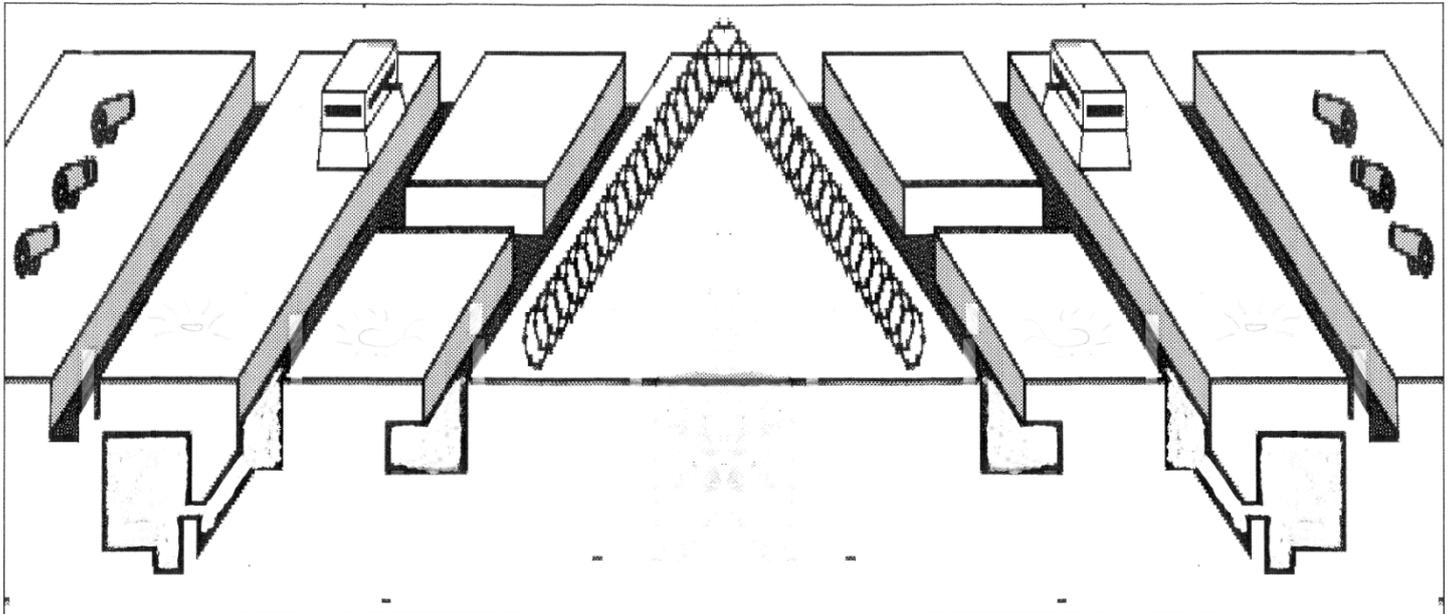
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

**Task One:** Using the letters that make up the words **Trench Warfare** see how many words that you can create. Add your words to the table below:

1. Trench	2. Warfare	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.
9.	10.	11.	12.
13.	14.	15.	16.
17.	18.	19.	20.
21.	22.	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.	28.
29.	30.	31.	32.
33.	34.	35.	36.
37.	38.	39.	40.
41.	42.	43.	44.
45.	46.	47.	48.
49.	50.	51.	52.
53.	54.	55.	56.
57.	58.	59.	60.

Your first task is to create a labelled diagram of a typical *Great War* battlefield.



Draw a simple line drawing/diagram of a typical battlefield during the *Great War*.

Your diagram will need to be labelled with the following:

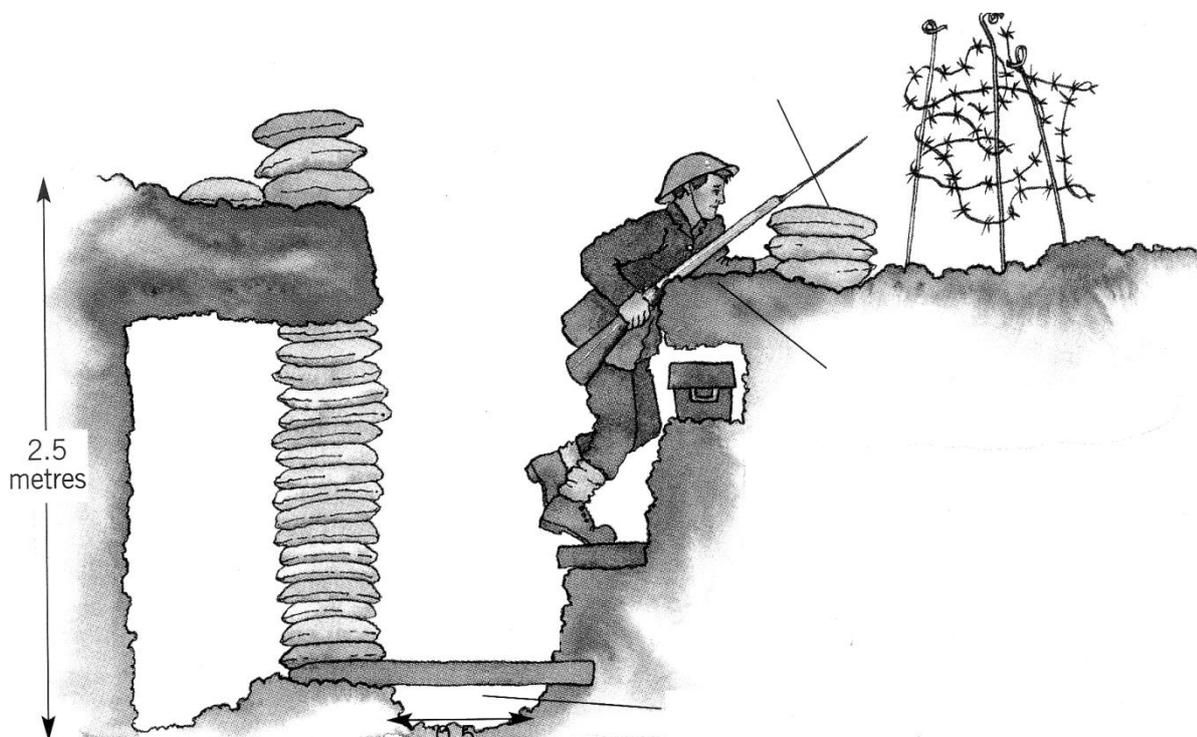
No Mans Land; Barbed Wire; Artillery/Howitzers;

British Trench; German Trench; Mud filled Shell holes/Craters;

Clouds of poison gas; Exploding shells; Machine gun tower;

Basic Dug Out; Underground bunker.

Your second task is to label tidily the following picture  
of inside  
A typical Great War trench.



How are each of these pictures linked to trench conditions?



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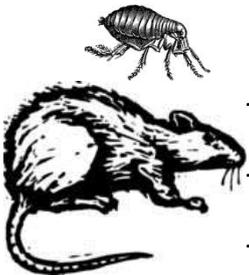
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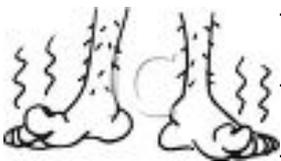
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How are the sources presenting life in the trenches?

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Tell me your opinion and give examples from the sources

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**Source A - Sergeant A. Vine, diary entry, 8th August, 1915**

*The stench of the dead bodies now is awful as they have been exposed to the sun for several days, many have swollen and burst. The trench is full of other occupants, things with lots of legs, also swarms of rats.*

**Source B - 'The Harvest of Battle', by CRW Nevinson in 1919**



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**Source C - Extract from General Haig's war diaries, June 1915**

After lunch I had a meeting with the three corps commanders. The following also present: General Hobbs, Surgeon-General Macpherson and Butler, on the question of trench sanitation, in consequence of a report which had reached me. One para. stated "there were two bodies buried in front parapet, one of which had "only two inches of earth on it. There were many bodies within a "few yds. of the parapet. The stench was sickening. Hundreds of "half empty jam tins were littered about, and naturally crowded "with flies. The latrine arrangements were not adequate."

We agreed that incinerators should be erected for burning all refuse. When impossible to burn the corpses, ample quick lime to be sent up to the trenches to cover them with. Sacks must be provided for the removal of tins, waste paper. etc. Buckets to be provided for the latrines, and to be renewed where possibly nightly. The several wooden tramways which have been constructed enable this to be done without much difficulty in most sections.

Since I saw the Surgeon-General this morning, he had been into the trenches at Givenchy, and now reported that the condition of affairs was not so bad as some had represented, still it was very urgent that every possible precaution should be taken to prevent insanitary conditions. Corps commanders are fully alive to the importance of this, and are personally to go into the matter.

Make a list of all the bad things Haig is mentioning in his letter.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4.

5.

6.

Censor the two letters to make sure that people back home know the soldiers are having a good time! Scribble out the negative sentences.

1. Written by Private H. F. Leppard of East Grinstead on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 1914.

Dear mother,

I trust you are keeping well. I am holding up well. On a lower point the soldiers at the front need more rest. While in the trenches the water is over our knees most of the time. The war is going to last some time yet, and might be another twelve months before it is over. The war has only just begun and it's going to be a war of exhaustion. The sooner people understand this the better it will be for the nation. I hope to see you soon, love Harold.

3. Written by Private James Mitchell o East Grinstead, on 17th October, 1914.

Dear Father, how are you and mother coping? I am holding up just fine. Me and the boys always cheer each other up. Yesterday we started away just after dawn from our camp and I think it was about an hour later that we encountered the enemy. They were on the opposite side of the valley and as we came over the brow of the hill they opened on us with rifle fire and shrapnel from about 900 yards. We lost three officers and about 100 men killed and wounded in that half hour. I do not want any more days like that one. Anyway we drove the Germans back and held them there for eight days. I cannot tell you all I should like to, as it would never reach you. I will see you again soon, I promise. Love to everyone, James.

