

## What were conditions like in the trenches?



Key Word	Definition
Blighty	Slang term for Britain/ A wound that got you sent home.
Conscription	When the government makes military service compulsory
Dug out	An area of the trench where a soldier could rest.
Lord Kitchener	Minister of War- in charge of recruitment.
No mans land	The area of land between enemy trenches.
Shell shock	A psychological impact of being in the war- PTSD
Trench foot	A condition caused by being in waterlogged trenches.
Pals battalion	A group of friends who all joined the army at the same time.

For the soldiers of the First World War fighting was an exceptional circumstance, rather than the norm. For many, life consisted of toiling to keep those at the front supplied. But the **frontline troops** themselves were rotated to ensure that time spent facing the enemy was balanced by periods of rest and, occasionally, home-leave. The determination of soldiers to keep fighting could be strongly influenced by the regularity of this rotation. Some armies were more efficient than others in this respect. Russian and Turkish soldiers, often fighting at huge distances from home, in regions poorly served by railways, were less able than others to find respite from the hardships of the front.

Paul Cornish



What do I need to know?	
	Trenches were needed as the two sides were at stalemate- neither could advance any further. So they built a trench system to protect themselves from enemy fire whilst holding their ground.
	The German trenches were more advanced and had concrete dugouts. They quite often also had the higher ground and so had better drainage.
	Soldiers did not spend all of their time in the front line trenches, they would rotate their time through the front line and reserve trenches. Even in the frontline they were not fighting all the time and boredom was a problem.
	The frontline trenches were very unhealthy. There were lots of rats and the trenches became waterlogged in wet weather which led to trench foot. Soldiers also had to contend with body lice and poor food supplies.
	The war led to rapid advancements in technology- tanks and offensive machine guns were developed as well as new communication technology and medical technology such as x ray machines.

READ	<a href="https://www.history.com/news/life-in-the-trenches-of-world-war-i">https://www.history.com/news/life-in-the-trenches-of-world-war-i</a>
WATCH	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzIMQ3D1xd4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzIMQ3D1xd4</a>
LISTEN	<a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04n6016">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04n6016</a>