

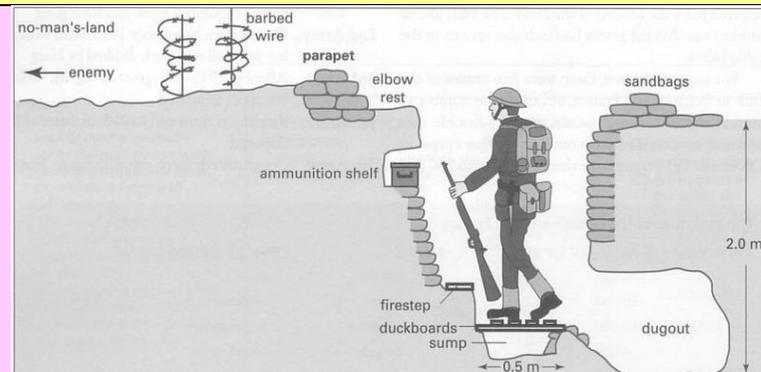
Chronology, events and people

Recruitment and propaganda:

When war broke out, Britain had a small army of around 250,000 professional soldiers. Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War told the government that Britain needed at least one million men. The government began a massive recruitment drive. It set up recruitment offices in every town and city, it commissioned posters and pamphlets urging young men to join up. The campaign was hugely successful. By March 1916 over 2.5 million men had volunteered to join 'Kitchener's Army'. There were however over 16,000 conscientious objectors in Britain. They refused to fight but often ended up doing other jobs such as being stretcher bearers.

Trenches:

Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived all day and night. Trenches were long, narrow ditches dug into the ground where soldiers lived all day and night. In the middle, was No Man's Land, so-called because it did not belong to either army. Soldiers crossed No Man's Land when they wanted to attack the other side. The trenches could be very muddy and smelly. There were many dead bodies buried nearby and the latrines (toilets) sometimes overflowed into the trenches and which caused a variety of medical problems such as Trench Foot, lice and attracted rats.



Key words

- Armistice:** a truce where both sides agree to stop fighting for a time, ceasefire
- Artillery:** large heavy guns, the a Royal Artillery is the section of the army that uses them
- British Commonwealth:** a group of independent, free countries with close links to Britain
- Conscientious objectors:** men who refused to fight in war or join the army because they believed that war was always wrong
- Court martial:** military court
- Desertion:** running away or abandoning something, for example the army
- Dressing station:** a place for giving emergency treatment to the wounded
- Duckboards:** wooden boards placed on the ground of trenches to stop people from sinking in the mud
- Dugout:** a roofed shelter built into the wall of a trench
- Fire step:** a raised platform on which soldiers stood to look over and fire over the top of the trenches
- Pals Battalion/ regiment:** a regiment made up of soldiers from the same town or area
- Reparations:** compensation paid for war damage by a defeated country
- Shells:** large bullets that are fired over long distances, usually from artillery guns

Key dates of WWI

- 22nd April 1915 - first use of gas on the Western front
- 25th April 1915 - start of battle of Gallipoli
- 31st May 1916 - start of Battle of Jutland
- 1st July 1916 - start of the Battle of the Somme.
- 15th September 1916 - first use of tanks by the British
- 31st July 1917 - start of Battle of Passchendaele