

World War One Tr

Soldier Background

Name: George William Stripp

Rank: Gunner

DOB: June 1893

DOD: 7th November 1918

Aged: 24

Parents: Jesse and Eliza Stripp

Wife: Annie Parker

Children: Ronald Albert Stripp

Address: 5 Kingston Road, Ew

Career: Milk Carrier

Buried: Brookwood Military C

Cause of Death: Influenza

George joined the army ranks :
he joined up in 1915 he probab

cause

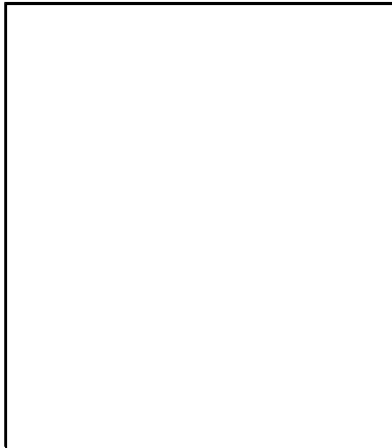
My soldier died of influenza, f
epidemic that began in January
people in the world and becam
got the flu from another soldie
in a waterlogged ditch in the g
days before the end of the war

He could've easily been killed
three years in the army. He is b
unknown.

za
llion
probably
to live
d four

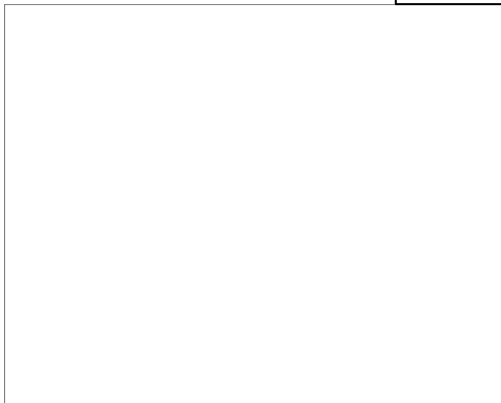
ved
e

The Trench Cycle:



two weeks on the front-line, or

Daily Routine:



At the beginning of a day in which there was no interruption of an air raid or an attack from the opposition, every soldier was woken up an hour before dawn and would then fix their bayonets to guard the trench in case of attack. Both sides did this and so both sides knew that the opposition would be ready for an attack at such time. Even so, many attacks were carried out before dawn. By the early morning both sides would perform the 'morning hate' by firing machine guns and some shells at each other. Then, once the firing had ceased, men would have breakfast and clean their weapons. (although British men didn't have enough food, the Germans had even less and ran out completely at one point because they mainly relied on importing food from other countries)

After breakfast, all soldiers would be inspected by the Platoon Officer and Sergeant. As trench foot was a big problem, the inspections usually included a 'foot inspection' of which the Officer and Sergeant would check everyone's feet for any signs of trench foot. Then the Officer and Sergeant would assign every soldier with jobs like filling sandbags or pumping out water in the trenches. After they had finished their chores they wouldn't have very much to do as they were restricted in movement. A lot would clean personal things or write letters back home. The same ritual at dawn would be repeated at dusk when soldiers readied themselves for an enemy attack.

Night-time:

During the night men would have to go and collect water and rations whilst other would have sentry

er to the
g
diers
Cycle.
t line,
on
ed
ront line
e if it
ing that
l more
f there
bout
in rest.

duty. If you fell asleep on sentry duty then you could be shot as if an attack took place while you were sleeping then would be warned about it. Luckily, sentry duty was never normally more than two hours long at one time.

To prevent an attack at night, some soldiers had to patrol around the area, keeping a look out for enemy attack. Occasionally enemy patrols would meet and the men would either fight or simply let each other pass. If they chose to fight then it would set off both sides and a lot of machine gun firing would start up as a consequence. There were also listening posts to stop the enemy from sneaking up on you. Wiring parties were sent out to repair the barbed wire that protected the trenches.

Rats and Lice:

There were millions of rats in the trenches. There were two main types; brown and black ones. They were both horrible but the brown ones were especially feared and were known to get as big as cats as they fed on human remains. Soldiers tried to get rid of them by several methods such as clubbing them to death or firing shots at them but it didn't work because they breed so quickly.

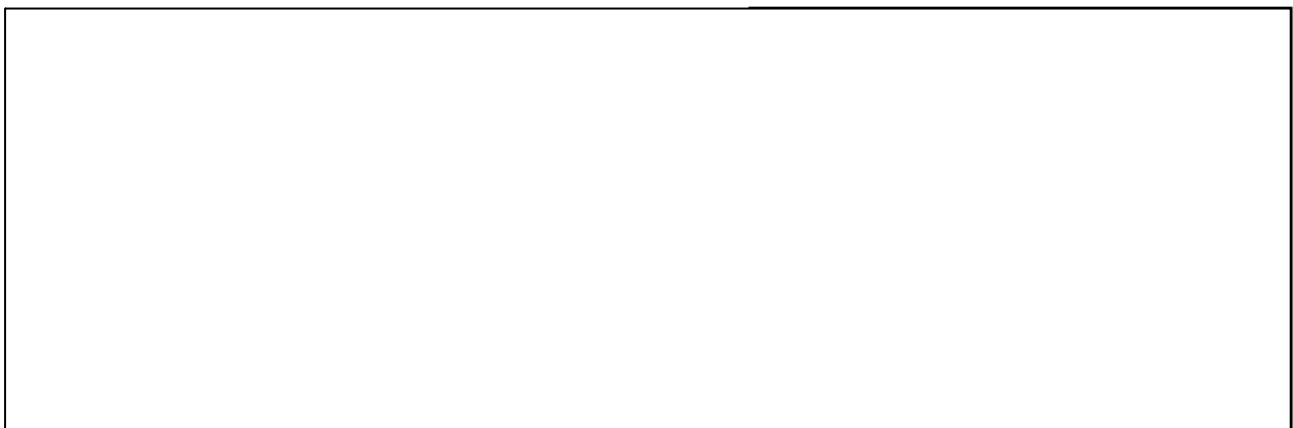
For the soldiers in the trenches, to be afflicted with lice was normal. It was estimated that around 97% of people had them. When men were on the front-line they didn't often change their clothes and so body lice was everywhere. Even when clothes were washed and deloused eggs survived by being hidden in the seams and within hours of the clothes back on they would be back. Lice also carried Trench Fever. They would bite an infected host and then bite another, uninfected person, giving them the fever.

The Smell:

The trenches stank. There were a lot of stinky things in the trenches and soldiers had to live with it. One of the problems was overflowing latrines. They didn't have actual toilets in the trenches so they would dig a hole but eventually it would fill up. Also, soldiers didn't wash a great deal while fighting. They smoked a lot too which added to the smell. There was always a smell of poison gas but most soldiers got used to it quickly.

The main problem was the smell of rotting flesh. There were thousands of dead lying there and the ones that got buried had shallow graves. Many whom died in shell holes sank completely into the mud or water covered them when it rained.

Trench Foot:

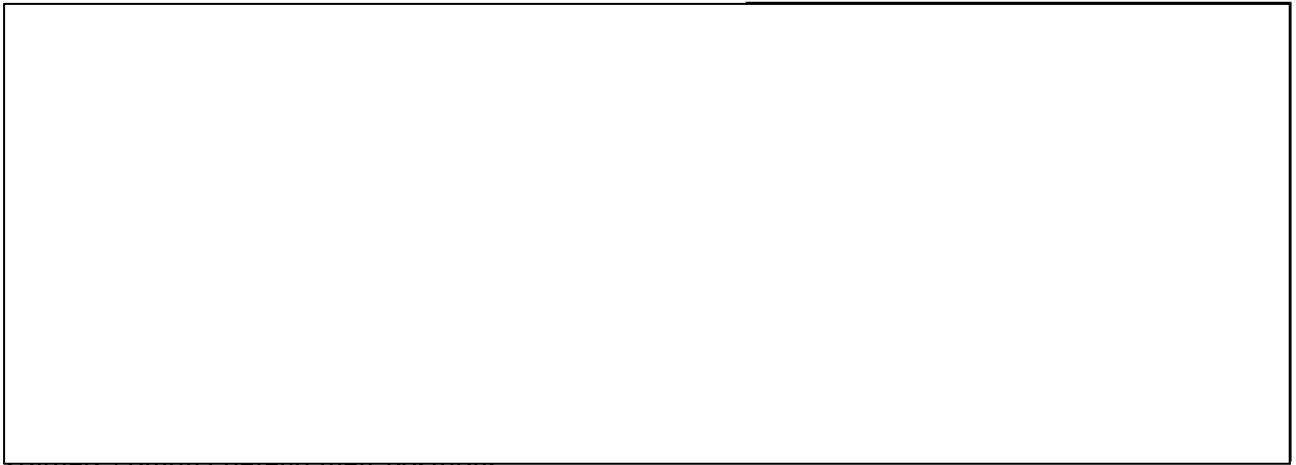


actually occurred in the trenches. Soldiers were accompanied by death at all times, even when there was no raid or attack. The enemy would fire

shells at random times so many would be buried alive under wreckage they caused, also snipers could shoot soldiers who peered over the trench and into no-mans-land. Many soldiers died on their first day as a consequence of natural curiosity.

Disease was another huge killer as all the men were living in disgusting conditions and very close together, disease spread fast.

Gas Attacks:



soldiers couldn't defend their positions.

The first gas attack wasn't actually by the Germans, it was from the French. They used it as an irritant rather than to kill the Germans in August 1914. Although the French were the first, Germans used it the most and put great thought into how it could be used to incapacitate the opposition.

Going Over the Top:

Going over the top was a term that was used to define when one side left their trench and began attacking the opposition by foot.

First, the Officer or Sergeant would blow the whistle, the signal for the attack to begin, and all soldiers would have to climb up the side of the trench and walk in line, single file lines towards the enemy. The night before, they would've used artillery to destroy the enemy's defences. Other than the German defences being very strong, the artillery just made the barbed wire even more dangerous, and the enemy fired machine guns at the British soldiers as they walked in straight lines towards them. Unfortunately, the British tactics didn't change much at all throughout the war.

Here was always someone left behind in the trenches who was given orders to shoot anyone who ran back into the trench before the all clear, as 'cowardice' was punishable by death.

Shell Shock:

Shell shock is a psychological problem in which the horrors that the soldiers had to endure cause a breakdown. Some of the conditions are: reliving experiences, uncontrollable diarrhoea, constant anxiety, and pains where they had injuries in the past.

At first they didn't actually know what it was and thought the soldiers were just being cowards, then they realised it was a real issue and came to the conclusion that it was from physical damage to the nerves. All in all, the British army dealt with over 80,000 cases of shell shock during World War

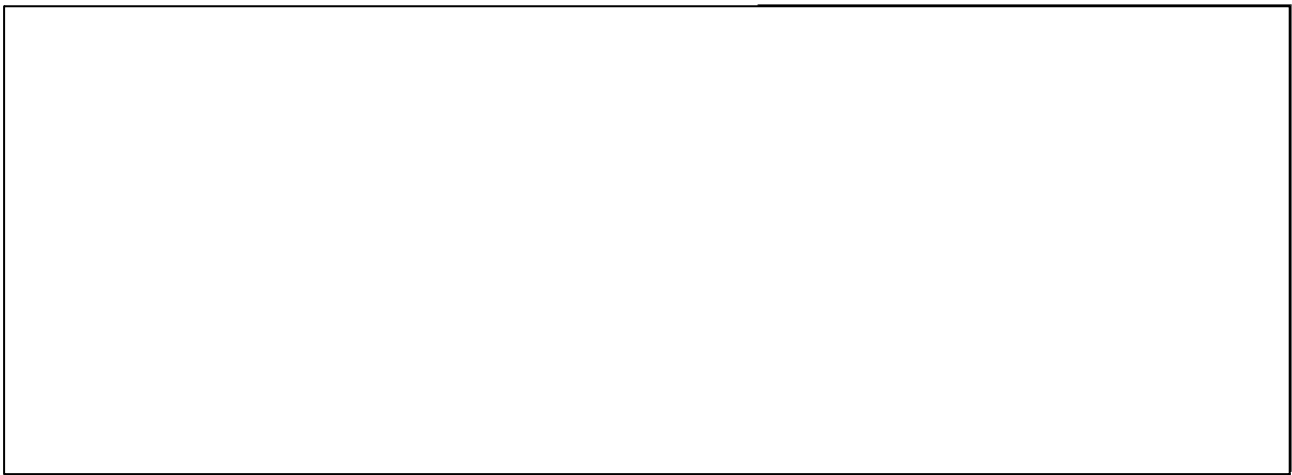
One.

Home Leave:

When soldiers were in the reserve of the rest part of the Trench Cycle, they were given a chance to have a break and have some fun. Most ordinary soldier couldn't get enough leave to travel home unless they had severe enough for treatment in England to be needed.

Soldiers were treated as heroes when they took rest leave in small French Inns. They could sit and eat egg and chips and drink cheap wine.

Hospitals:



had to move around quite a lot as the front-line retreated or advanced. They were always overcrowded and there wasn't enough medicine to go around, meaning that only the worst inflictions had a chance of being cured.

Women:

World War One was actually a good thing for women's rights. Before the war, women didn't have much of an opportunity to work outside their home because society had never given them the chance. Because so many men had to go and fight there were important jobs suddenly left vacant, politicians decided that women should work in war related jobs the country while the men fight. They learnt skills men didn't think appropriate for them, did activities that men thought were too strenuous for them, and did just as well as the men. Unfortunately they were still paid half of what the men would've earned.

After the war, some women kept on working outside the home but most were employed for 'the duration of the war' which basically meant that as soon as the men came back, they would get kicked out.

Conclusion:

I think that my soldier was as brave as all the other men who signed up willingly because he chose to fight, which is a very brave thing to do, and I feel sorry for his family because they never saw him again. I think we should remember all the soldiers on both sides as victims, because that is what they were.

My thoughts on World War One and war in general is that it is completely unnecessary. The Governments in European countries made bad decisions and got lots of innocent people killed because of it. I don't think it's correct for people to blame World War One on the Germans because it wasn't their fault.

The most important thing I learnt during this project is how sick the Generals and strategists must've been to make soldiers walk in single file lines towards machine guns without changing that method for the majority of the four year war. I didn't really enjoy doing this project because this aspect of war isn't the aspect that I find interesting. I like learning about the politics of the situation and why things happened.