**Life in the Trenches of World War I**

**1914-1918**

**Learning Goals**

**By the end of this lesson, students will…**

* Select and organize relevant evidence and information on aspects of Canadian history since 1914 from a variety of primary and secondary sources ensuring that their sources reflect multiple perspectives
* Interpret and analyze evidence and information relevant to their investigations, using various tools, strategies, and approaches appropriate for historical inquiry
* Use appropriate terminology when communicating the results of their investigations
* Identify some major developments in science and/or technology during this period, and assess their significance for different groups in Canada

**Trench Routine**

* Since the usual time for an enemy attack was at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, soldiers would wake then to guard the frontline trenches
* If there was no attack, they would gather for inspections, breakfast, and the daily \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ration
* During the day, soldiers worked in their trenches doing a numbed of chores, ranging from cleaning latrines to filling sandbags or repairing duckboards
* In between chores, soldiers had time for leisure activities that included: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* It was at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that trench life was most dangerous as soldiers would move into No Man’s Land

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**Trench Raids**

* Patrols often occurred at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ under the cover of darkness; however, there was still a risk of injury, death, or capture
* There was also a risk of running into enemy patrols
* Raids could become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if they were carefully planned and prepared for. These miniature battles would include the coordination of the raiding party with the machine gunners and artillery
* Raids kept soldiers in the trenches alert, motivated and aggressive, but they could also result in many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Trench Weapons**

* Trench warfare came about due to the increased firepower of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Once soldiers had dug into their trenches, a stalemate occurred on the Western Front and the only way to break that stalemate was to create greater weapons
* At the outbreak of war, most soldiers only carried a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* As the war progressed, soldiers became better equipped and began carrying grenades and utilizing mortars and machine guns in addition to their rifles and bayonets
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were also used to break into and out of enemy trench lines

**Trench Newspapers**

* Some units published their own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* These newspapers were a way for soldiers to express their thoughts and feelings about the war
* The newspapers contained articles, poetry, jokes, and cartoons
* These newspapers were censored by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but they were a safe environment for soldiers to reveal their anger about their hard life, although this was often done through the use of jokes
* There were over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ different Canadian trench newspapers during WWI and only few copies remain

**Rest and Leisure**

* Soldiers rotated into and out of the front lines to provide a break from the stress of combat
* Soldiers spend \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ days in the front trenches before moving back and spending an equal number of days in the secondary trenches and, finally, the reserve trenches
* Soldiers could go on an occasional leave to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hut was the centre of a soldier’s social life where they could read and write during the day, and attend concerts or lectures in the evening
* Sports also relieved the stress of war – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was the most popular

**Pests and Pain**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ infested the trenches and contributed to the spreading of diseases among soldiers
* Lice was found to be the cause of Trench Fever, which included headaches, fevers, and muscle pain
* The unsanitary conditions in combination with the cold weather and persistent dampness resulted in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Trench Foot was a frostbite-like infection and in extreme cases led to gangrene and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Maintaining Morale**

* Bonds of friendship, loyalty and community based on shared experience and common dangers promoted a strong sense of group identity
* Training, firm discipline, and strong leadership motivated soldiers
* The threat of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ kept soldiers in line
* Shared sense in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of their cause
* The military attempted to provide simple pleasures like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Letters arrived from home daily and on occasion care packages were sent as well
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was used for reward, medicine and motivation

**Escaping the Trenches**

* High casualties, poor food, and lack of sleep constantly threatened to undermine the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of soldiers in the trenches
* Soldiers that suffered from excessive stress (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) may turn to desertion for which the punishment could be death by firing squad
* Some soldiers turned to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (SIWs) - gunshot wound to the hand or foot, rubbing chemically infected soil in one’s eyes, etc.
* These soldiers with SIWs would be moved to a SIW hospital where they were liable to sentences that ranged from punishment to imprisonment
* There were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cases of SIW in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and many more that were likely undetected
* The actual number of soldiers who tried to escape trench life through illegal actions was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 