

First World War Trenches

ammunition shelf

Ledges used to keep important things like bullets dry.

gas alarm bell

A warning system for when poisonous gases were used by the enemy.

fire step

A raised platform for soldiers to stand on and see over the top.

duckboards

Planks of wood to create a path over muddy or wet ground.

sump

A channel dug for water to run below the duckboards.

soldiers

Men aged between 18 and 41 who had signed up to fight for their country.

barbed wire

A fence of metal with sharp spikes, to stop enemies running at the trench.

sandbags

A sack filled with sand, used to protect and support the trenches.

front line trench

The trench closest to the enemy, where soldiers would keep watch and return fire.

support trench

A trench behind the front line where soldiers could have a break.

parados

Sandbags at the rear of the trench to protect against danger from the trench behind.

bayonet

A steel blade fixed to a soldier's rifle for hand-to-hand combat.

dugout

A resting place in the side of a trench where soldiers might sleep, write letters or eat.

uniform

A soldier's outfit, which included a stiff cap, khaki jacket, puttees and greatcoat.

rations

Food provided to the soldiers such as tinned meat and biscuits.

weapons

Guns, knives and other ammunition. Most soldiers carried a rifle.

