

First World War Trenches Answers

Use the words in the word bank to complete these First World War trench labels. Then, match the words to the definitions in the glossary.

The illustration shows a cross-section of a trench. In the foreground, there is a sump at the bottom of the trench. Duckboards are laid across the trench floor. Soldiers are positioned along the trench, some sitting on sandbags. A gas alarm bell is visible on the left. A bayonet is attached to a rifle. A support trench is visible in the background. A front line trench is marked by barbed wire. A parados is shown on the right side of the trench. Weapons and rations are also depicted.

Labels on the left:

- ammunition shelf
- gas alarm bell
- fire step
- duckboards
- sump
- soldiers
- barbed wire
- sandbags

Labels on the right:

- support trench
- parados
- bayonet
- dugout
- uniform
- rations
- weapons
- front line trench

soldiers	sandbags	weapons	rations
barbed wire	front line trench	dugout	uniform
duckboards	fire step	sump	gas alarm bell
support trench	ammunition shelf	parados	bayonet

rations	Daily food provided to the soldiers and shared out fairly. This often consisted of tinned meat and biscuits.
barbed wire	A tangled fence of metal with sharp spikes, designed to make it difficult for the enemy to run at the trench.
bayonet	A steel blade fixed to the end of a soldier's rifle for use in hand-to-hand combat.
weapons	As well as the armies using machine guns, mortars and mines, most soldiers carried a rifle.
dugout	A resting place in the side of a trench where soldiers might sleep, write letters or eat away from the weather and enemy fire.
ammunition shelf	Ledges in the trench walls, used to keep important things like bullets off the ground and dry.
support trench	A trench behind the front line and connected by a walkway, where soldiers could have a break from duty but support the main trench if needed.
front line trench	The trench that was closest to the enemy, where soldiers would take turns keeping watch and returning fire.
gas alarm bell	A system for warning the trenches when poisonous gases were used by the enemy.
fire step	A raised platform or bench along the side of the trench for soldiers to stand on and see over the top.
uniform	A soldier's outfit, which included a stiff cap, khaki jacket, puttees and a woollen greatcoat.
duckboards	Planks of wood placed end to end to create a path over muddy or wet ground.
parados	Lines of sandbags at the rear of the trench, designed to protect against shells and debris from the trench behind.
soldiers	Men aged between 18 and 41 who had signed up to fight for their country. From 1916, it stopped being a choice. This was called conscription.
sump	A channel dug underneath the duckboards for water to run below the floor, to stop the men having to stand in water for too long.
sandbags	A sack filled with sand, used to protect and support the trenches. Sand soaked up water, stopping the trench from flooding, and raised the sides to protect the men.