

TRENCH WARFARE

01.03	<p><i>Hi there, my name's Robby. A long time ago the First World War was fought out in Belgium. This is where the soldiers fought one another. Many of them died.</i></p> <p><i>Here, On this hill the armies came face to face but since they were equally matched no one could win.</i></p>
01.14	<p><i>My great grandfather was also in it and kept a diary of his experiences....</i></p>
01.20	<p><i>The soldiers dug in and constructed trenches in the earth.</i></p>
01.30	<p><i>And that's how the armies fought one another for four long years.</i></p> <p><i>It was a hard life. Listen to what I'm going to read.</i></p>
01.36	<p><i>"Dear diary. Tonight, after hours of marching, we arrived at the front.</i></p>
	<p><i>(great grandfather writes) I'm in the front line trenches.</i></p>
01.50	<p><i>There's not a lot of room. The trenches are narrow and high so snipers can't hit us.</i></p> <p><i>All we can see through the periscope is No Man's Land, the narrow strip of land between us and the enemy.</i></p>
02.01	<p><i>There's not much we can do during daylight hours. It's too dangerous. Some of the men write letters home or, like me, keep a diary.</i></p>
02.08	<p><i>Others try to catch up on their sleep in small shelters because there's not much time for sleeping once night falls.</i></p>

02.20	<p><i>' The hard and dangerous part is at night. That's when we fetch water, provisions and ammunition or go out on reconnaissance.</i></p> <p><i>Yesterday evening, right after dinner, I was ordered to lay rolls of barbed wire out in No Man's Land, but they soon heard us and all hell broke loose. We only just made it back safely to the trenches."</i></p>
02.45	<p><i>"At long last we've been relieved and we're now resting in the back line trenches. After the hell of the front line this underground shelter seems pure luxury. It might well smell of sweat but at least it's warm!</i></p> <p><i>The biggest enemy are the rats. Once the candles are extinguished they come out looking for food. Sometimes they even nibble my toes or run all over me... However, they're not the only animals that keep me awake, The lice and the fleas really drive me crazy!</i></p>
03.15	<p><i>"I'm back in the front line. There's a terrible smell in the air.</i></p> <p><i>It's pouring with rain. Our clothes stick to our bodies. Our feet start to swell because of the mud. It's so bad that we can hardly get our boots off! Moreover, food is very scarce.</i></p>
03.31	<p><i>War is hell! In the last ten minutes before we go over the top we drink, swear and pray. Photos of loved ones are quickly taken out and looked at... Everyone is trembling and deathly pale.</i></p>
03.41	<p><i>Then the whistle blows and we clamber wearily over the parapet to meet the enemy... "</i></p>
03.57	<p><i>... It was a cold, star-lit night when suddenly we heard the soldiers in the trenches opposite us</i></p>

	<p><i>singing Christmas songs. They even had a Christmas tree and had lit candles. .</i></p> <p><i>They called out to us and climbed out of their trenches.... No one fired a single shot.....</i></p> <p><i>We shook each other's hands and even played a game of football..... They hate the war as much as we do..</i></p>
<i>04.19</i>	<p><i>"In the meantime the Christmas ceasefire is already over.</i></p> <p><i>It's freezing cold! (My threadbare jacket offers little warmth.) I don't think I will ever be warm again...."</i></p>