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124



ANGLIA TOURS AIDE MEMOIRE.
THE GREAT WAR ON THE
WESTERN FRONT

THE WAR OFFICE



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THE GREAT WAR

1. Timeline

1914

June 28th

Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassinated at Sarajevo

July 5th

Kaiser Wilhelm II promised German support for Austria against Serbia

July 28th

Austria declared war on Serbia

August 1st

Germany declared war on Russia

August 3rd

Germany declared war on France and invaded Belgium. Germany had to implement the Schlieffen Plan.

August 4th

Britain declared war on Germany

August 23rd

Battle of Mons

August 24th

BEF starts its **Retreat from Mons**

August 26th

Russian army defeated at Tannenberg and Masurian Lakes.

September 6th

Start of the **Battle of the Marne**

October 19th

Start of the **First Battle of Ypres**

October 29th

Turkey entered the war on Germany's side

1915

January 19th

The first Zeppelin raid on Britain took place

February 19th

Britain bombarded Turkish forts in the Dardanelles

April 22nd

The Germans used gas at the **Second Battle of Ypres**

April 25th

Allied troops landed in Gallipoli

May 7th

The "Lusitania" was sunk by a German U-boat

May 23rd

Italy declared war on Germany and Austria

September 25th

Start of the **Battle of Loos**

December 19th

The Allies started the evacuation of Gallipoli

1916

January 27th

Conscription introduced in Britain

February 21st

Start of the **Battle of Verdun**

April 29th

British forces surrendered to Turkish forces at Kut in Mesopotamia

May 31st

Battle of Jutland

June 4th

Start of the Brusilov Offensive

July 1st

Start of the **Battle of the Somme**

August 10th

End of the Brusilov Offensive

September 15th

First use of tanks on a battlefield at the Somme

December 7th

Lloyd George becomes British Prime Minister

1917

February 1st

Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare campaign started

April 6th

USA declared war on Germany

April 16th

France launched an unsuccessful offensive on the Aisne

July 31st

Start of the **Third Battle at Ypres - 'Passchendaele'**

October 24th

Battle of Caporetto – the Italian Army was heavily defeated

November 20th

British tanks won a victory at the **Battle of Cambrai**

December 5th

Armistice between Germany and Russia signed

December 9th

Britain captured Jerusalem from the Turks

1918

March 3rd

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed between Russia and Germany

March 21st

German Spring Offensive *Kaiserschlacht* was launched

March 29th

Marshall Foch was appointed Allied Commander on the Western Front

April 9th

Germany started an offensive in Flanders

July 15th

Start of the **Second Battle of the Marne**. The start of the collapse of the German army

September 19th

Turkish forces collapsed at Megiddo

October 4th

Germany asked the Allies for an armistice

October 29th

Germany's navy mutinied

October 30th

Turkey made peace

November 3rd

Austria made peace

November 9th

Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated

November 11th

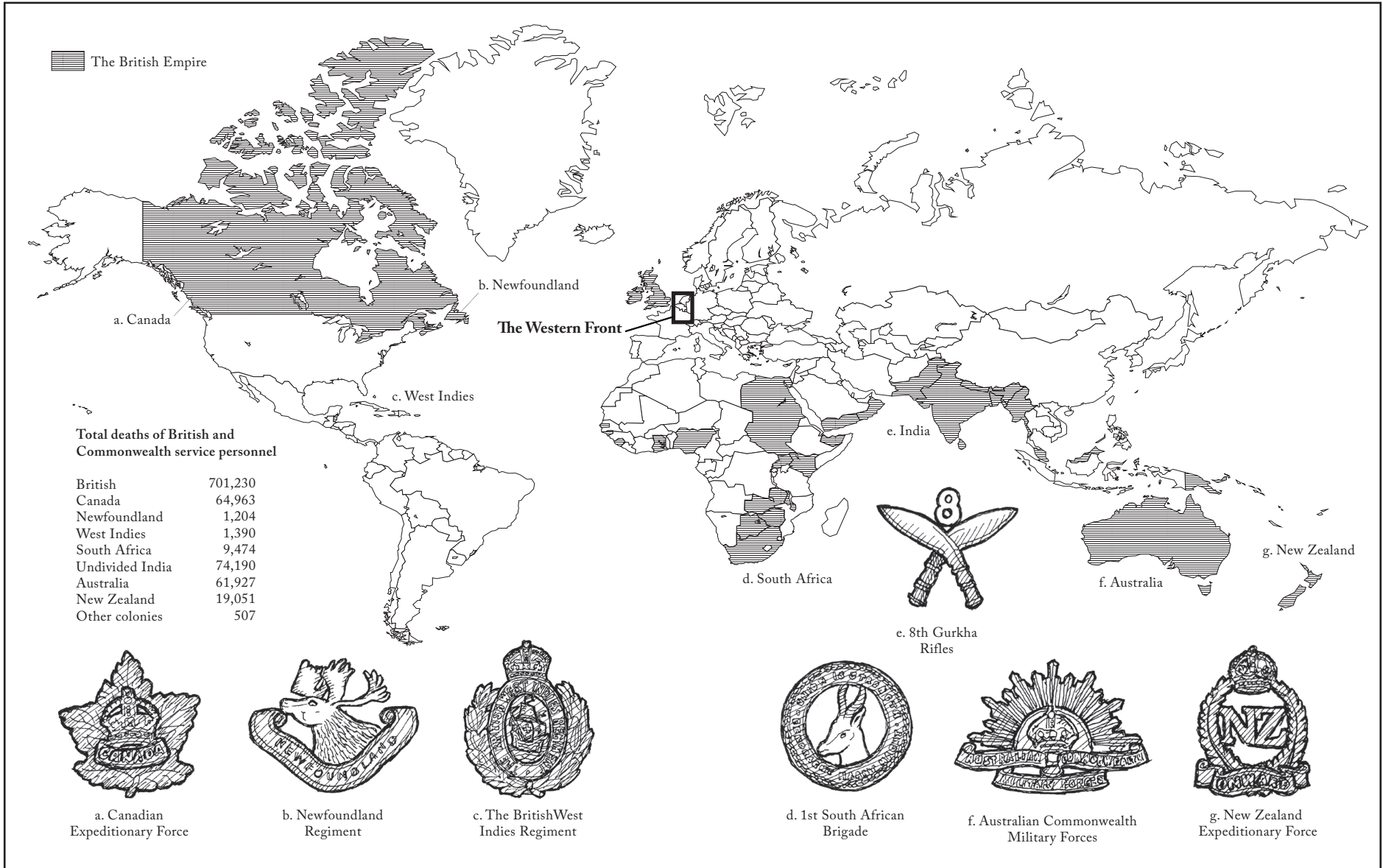
Germany signed an armistice with the Allies – War ends

A MAP OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

1. Also showing the location of *The Western Front*

A MAP OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

And a selection of cap badges from around the British Empire

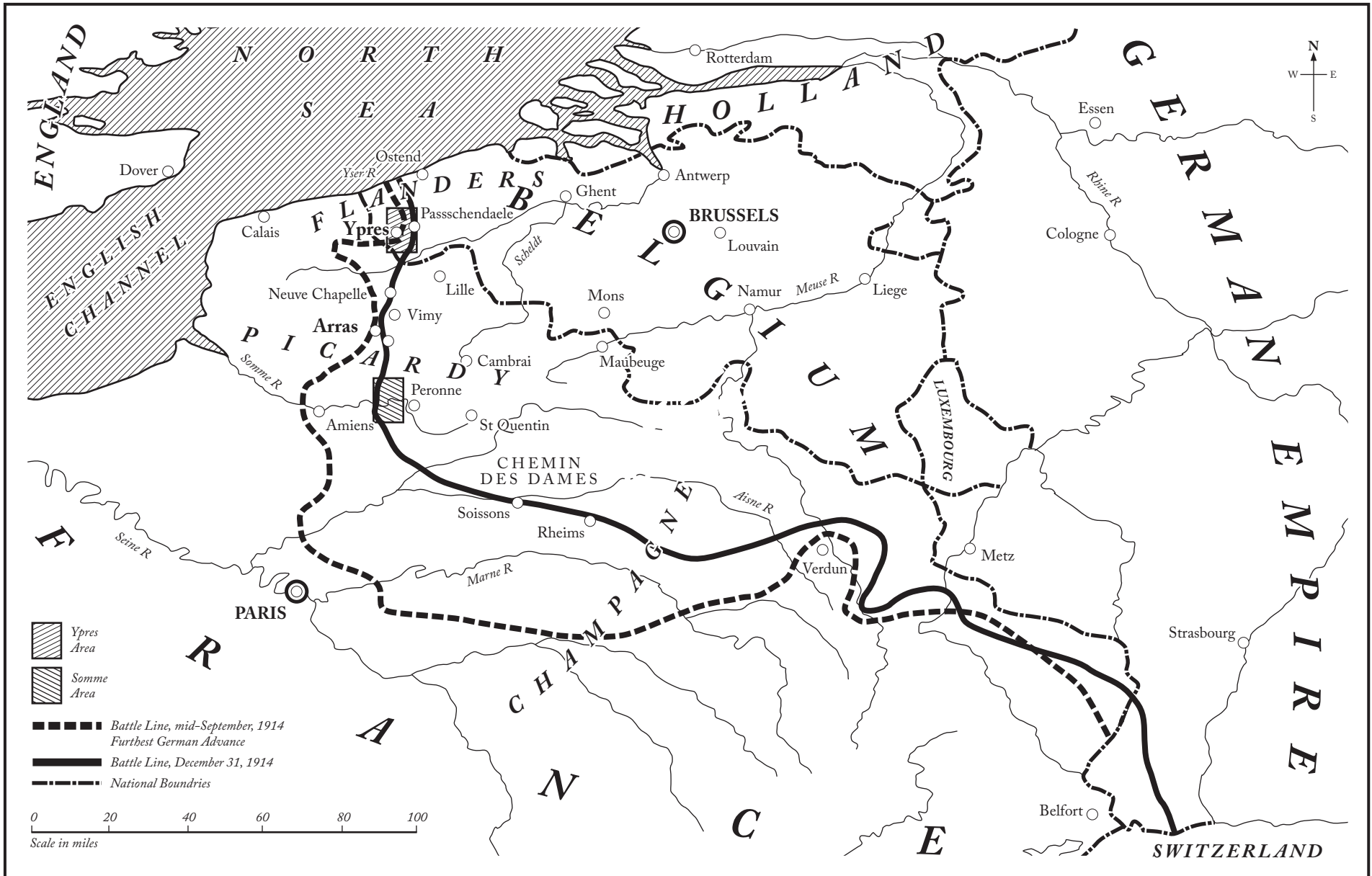


THE WESTERN FRONT

2. The 1914 Front Line

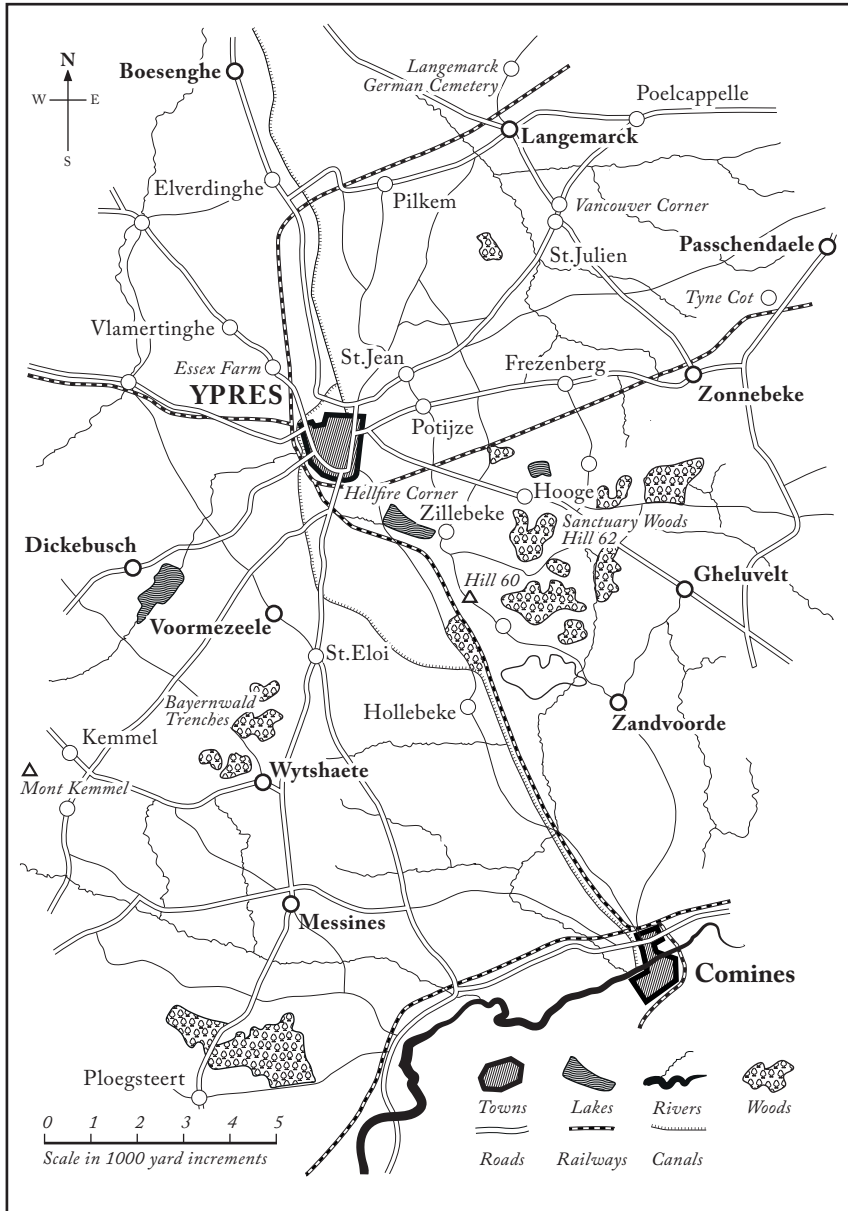
THE WESTERN FRONT

Also showing the locations of Ypres and the Somme



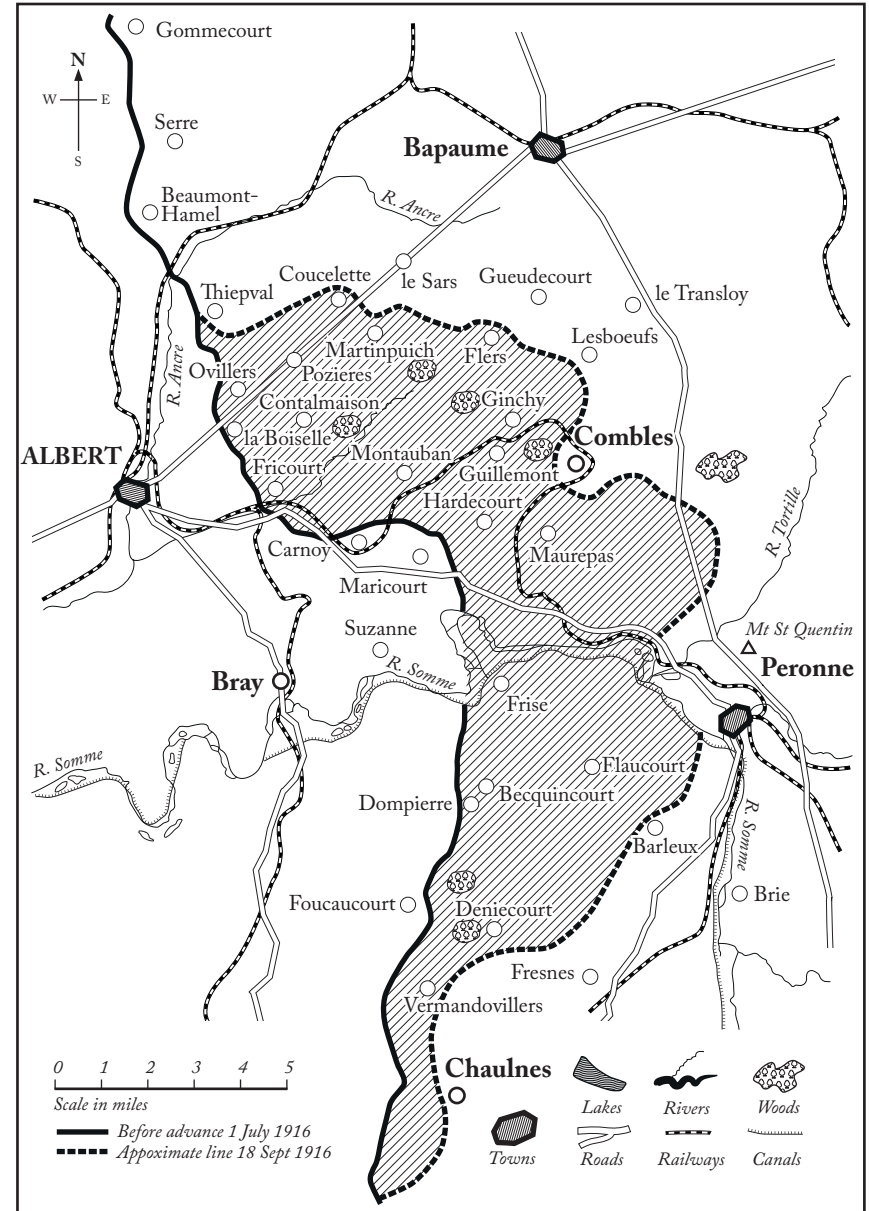
THE YPRES SALIENT

3. In Belgium



THE SOMME

4. In France



BRITISH ARMY STRUCTURE

5. Outline structure (approximate numbers) 1914 - 1918

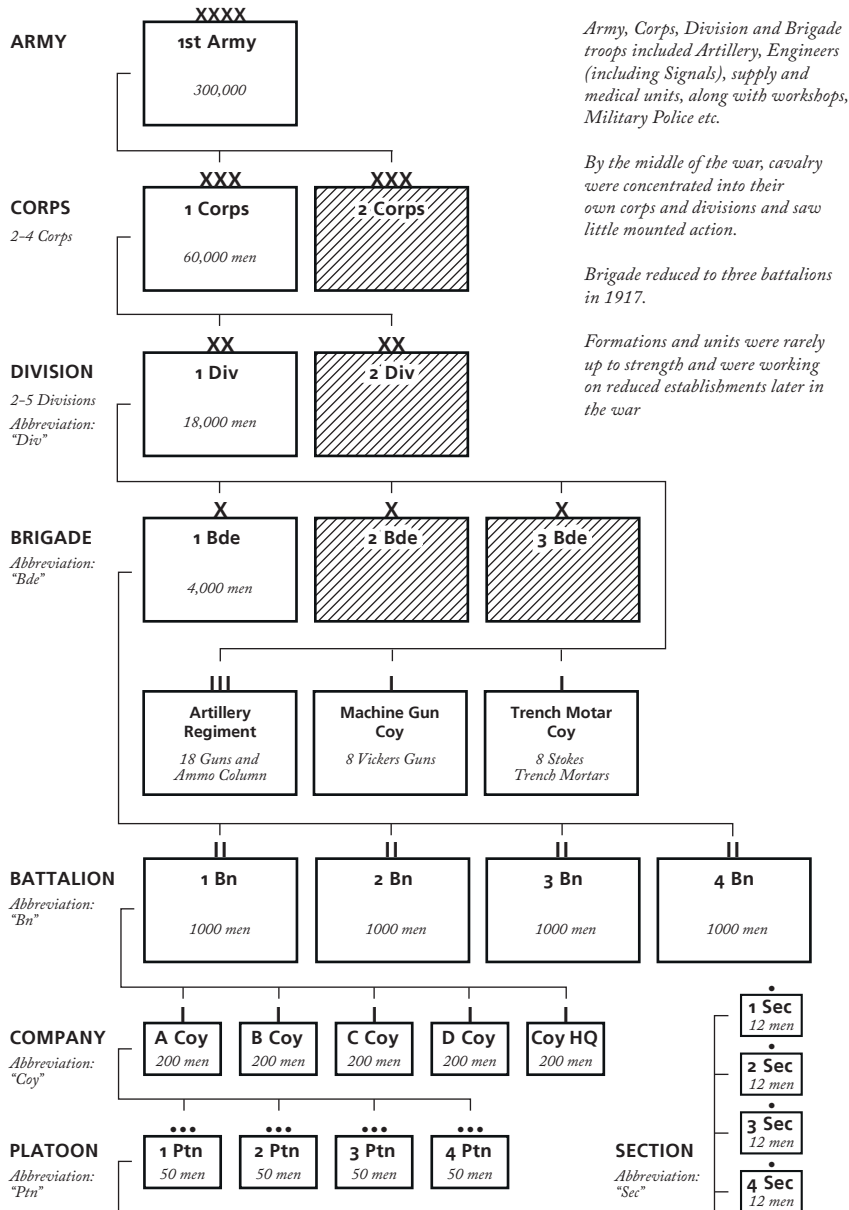
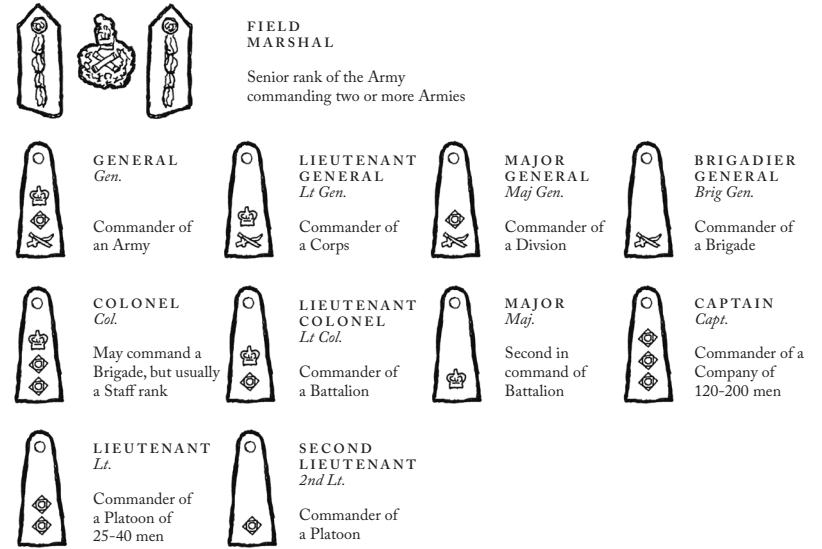


FIG 1.

BRITISH ARMY RANKS

6. Officers, Warrant Offices (WO) and Non Commissioned Officers (NCO)

OFFICERS



WARRANT OFFICERS (WO)



NON COMMISSIONED OFFICERS (NCO)



PRIVATE

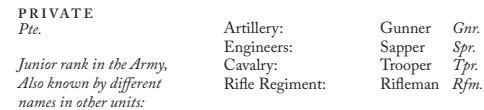


FIG 1.

BRITISH TOMMY

7. Uniform worn in 1916

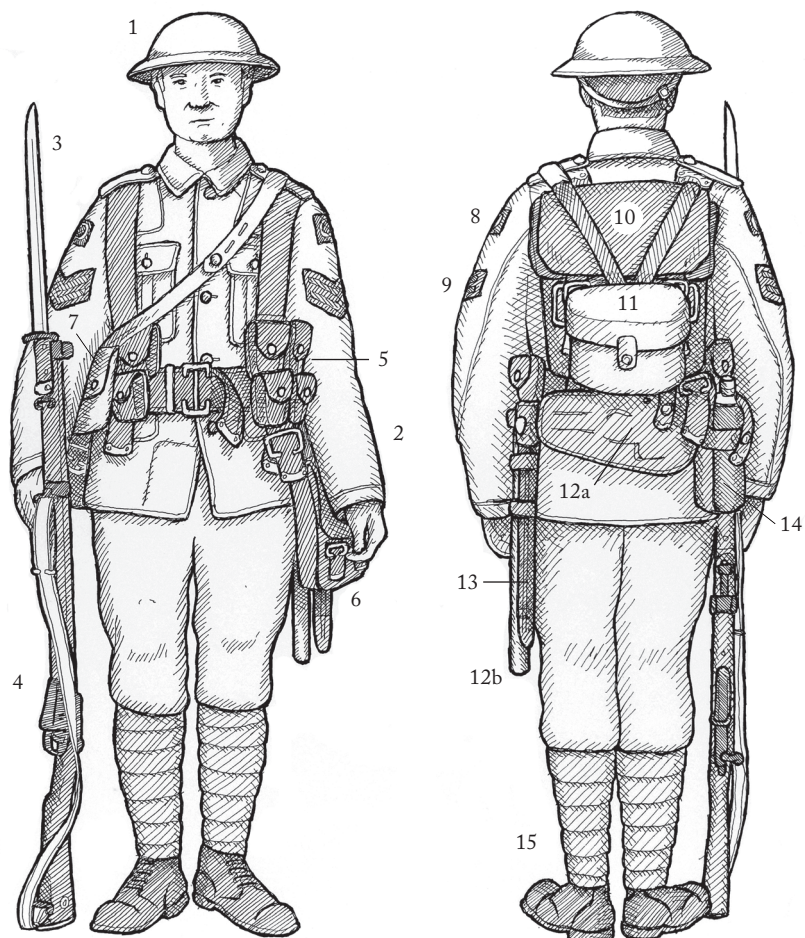


FIG 1.

1. Brodie Helmet
2. Khaki uniform
3. 1907 Bayonet
4. Short Magazine Lee Enfield Rifle
5. 1908 Webbing
6. Small pack
7. Gas hood

FIG 2.

8. Divisional insignia
9. Rank
10. Large pack
11. Mess tins
12. a.) Entrenching tool and b.) handle
13. Bayonet frog
14. Water bottle
15. Puttees and Boots

BRITISH TOMMY

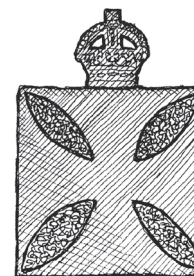
*A British soldier's profile***Private Albert Ford**

Albert Ford was born in Bedminster, Bristol, on 12th July 1877.

Like his father, Albert was a merchant seaman all his working life until he enlisted in December 1915 with the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He transferred to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry before ending up as Private 21336 in the 14th Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Albert was killed in action on 26th October 1917 at Passchendaele. He was 40 years of age. He and his wife Edith had six children – five daughters and a son; Albert never saw his youngest daughter who was born in June 1917, just a few weeks before his death.

Tyne Cot Memorial, Panel 23-28

Chaplain to the Forces Rupert Inglis

Rupert Inglis was born in London in 1863, his father having been a senior army officer in India. Rupert was educated at Rugby School and University College, Oxford. He played rugby for Blackheath and made three international appearances for England in 1886.

He was ordained as a deacon in 1889 and became a priest in 1894. When the Great War began he immediately volunteered and was commissioned as a Chaplain to the Forces, 4th Class. He was 51 years of age.

On 18th September 1916, during the Battle of the Somme, he joined a party of stretcher bearers to help bring in the wounded. While doing this he was struck by a fragment of shell and while his wound was being dressed a second shell killed him instantly. He was buried close to the battlefield but his body had been lost by the end of the war.

Thiepval Memorial, Pier 4c

GERMAN FRITZ

8. Uniform worn in 1916

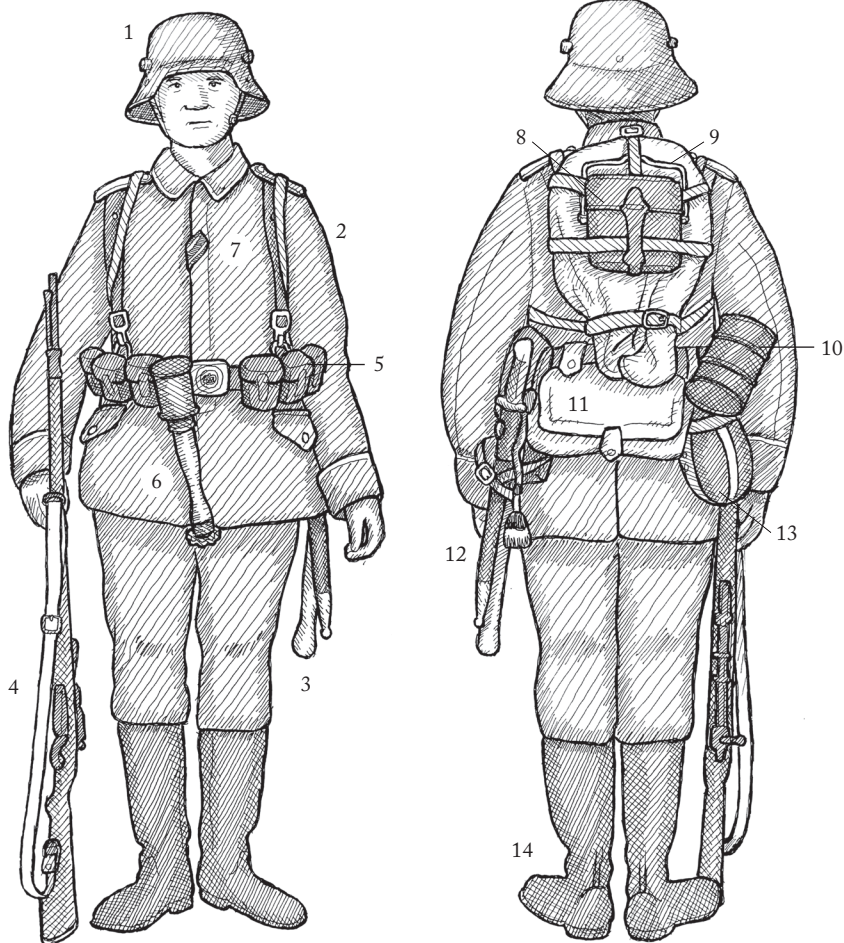


FIG 1.

FIG 2.

1. M1916 Stahlhelm
 2. Field Grey uniform
 3. Entrenching tool
 4. M1898 Mauser Rifle
 5. Cartridge pouches
 6. Stick grenade
 7. Iron Cross ribbon
 8. Mess tins
 9. Trench coat inside a rolled tent cloth
 10. Gas mask container
 11. Bread bag
 12. Bayonet
 13. Water bottle
 14. Jackboots
- By 1916 jackboots were being replaced by shorter boots and putties*

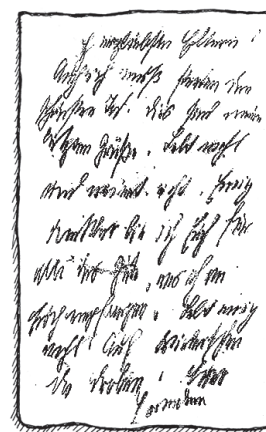
GERMAN FRITZ

A German soldier's profile

Kriegsfreiwilliger Hermann Koopman

Born in Oldenburg on May 7th 1893, Hermann Koopmann grew up with his three brothers believing they could accomplish anything they wanted in life.

Although he became a law student at Marburg University Hermann never finished his studies. In August 1914, when he was 21, Germany went to war and Hermann, along with many of his class mates volunteered for the army.



After just seven weeks training, Hermann and his colleagues arrived in Belgium where, on November 10th just outside Langemark, they attacked the British. Hermann was wounded and carried to a field hospital where he died eight days later. The following was found on his body, scribbled in pencil while Hermann lay gravely wounded:

My dearest parents!

Myself too, I must die the most beautiful death. These are my last regards. Farewell and do not weep. I am eternally grateful for all the good that I have received from you. Farewell eternally. I will see you in heaven.

Your Hermann

Langemark German Cemetery, Plot 3936

Ersatz Reservist Gustav Weste

Gustav Weste was born in Hornhausen-Halberstadt, in the province of Sachsen-Anhalt, on 22nd May 1884, the son of Friedrich Weste and Friederike Ehrlich. When the Great War began he joined 8th Kompanie Hanoverian Infantry Regiment 165.

On 18th July 1916, during the Battle of the Somme, Gustav was wounded in Foreaux Wald (High Wood) during heavy shelling by British artillery. He was reported missing and in April 1917 the Red Cross confirmed that he had died in captivity. After the war his body was transferred to the new German cemetery at Fricourt.

Fricourt German Cemetery, Plot 1/190

TRENCHES

9. Typical front line trench construction

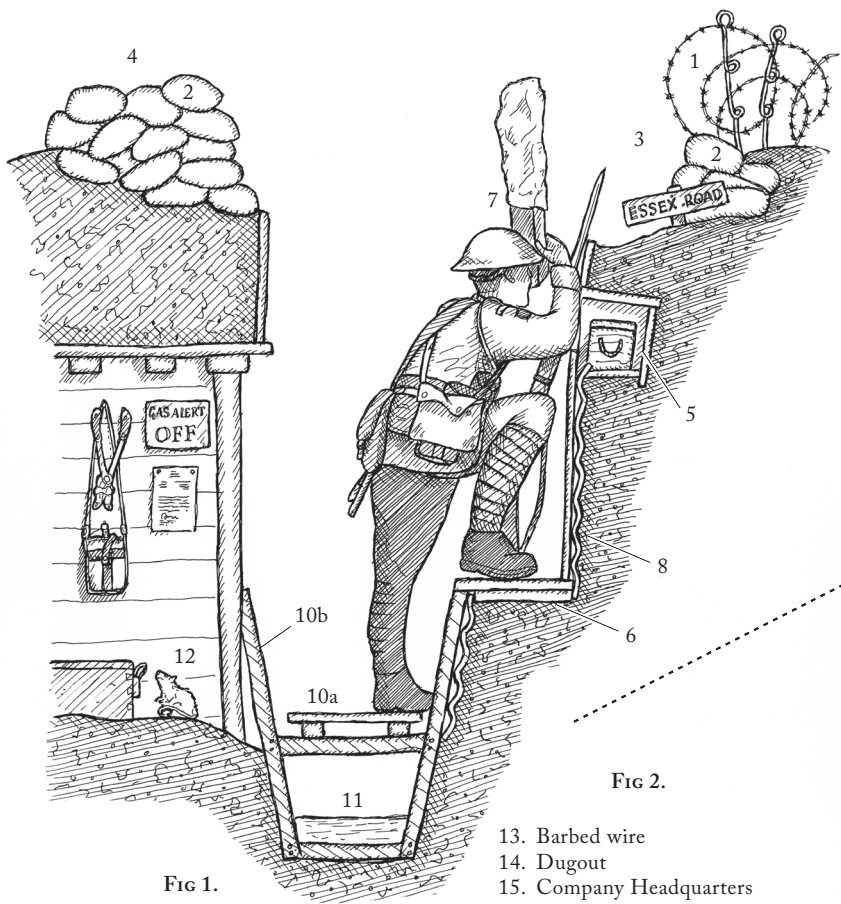


FIG 1.

- 1. Barbed wire
- 2. Sand bags
- 3. Parapet
- 4. Parados
- 5. Ammunition shelf
- 6. Fire Step
- 7. Periscope
- 8. Revetting
- 9. Dugout
- 10. a.) Duck boards
b.) 'A' Frame
- 11. Water in sump
- 12. Rat!

- 13. Barbed wire
- 14. Dugout
- 15. Company Headquarters (Coy. HQ)
- 16. Battalion HQ (Bn. HQ)
- 17. Machine gun emplacement
- 18. Ammunition depot
- 19. Observation Post (OP)
- 20. Latrines
- 21. Company Aid Post (CAP)
- 22. Regimental Aid Post (RAP)
- 23. Advance Dressing Station (ADS)
- 24. Brigade HQ (Brig. HQ)
- 25. Royal Engineer (RE) dump
- 26. RE dugouts
- 27. Reserve dugouts
- 28. Billets

FIG 2.

TRENCHES

Typical trench system

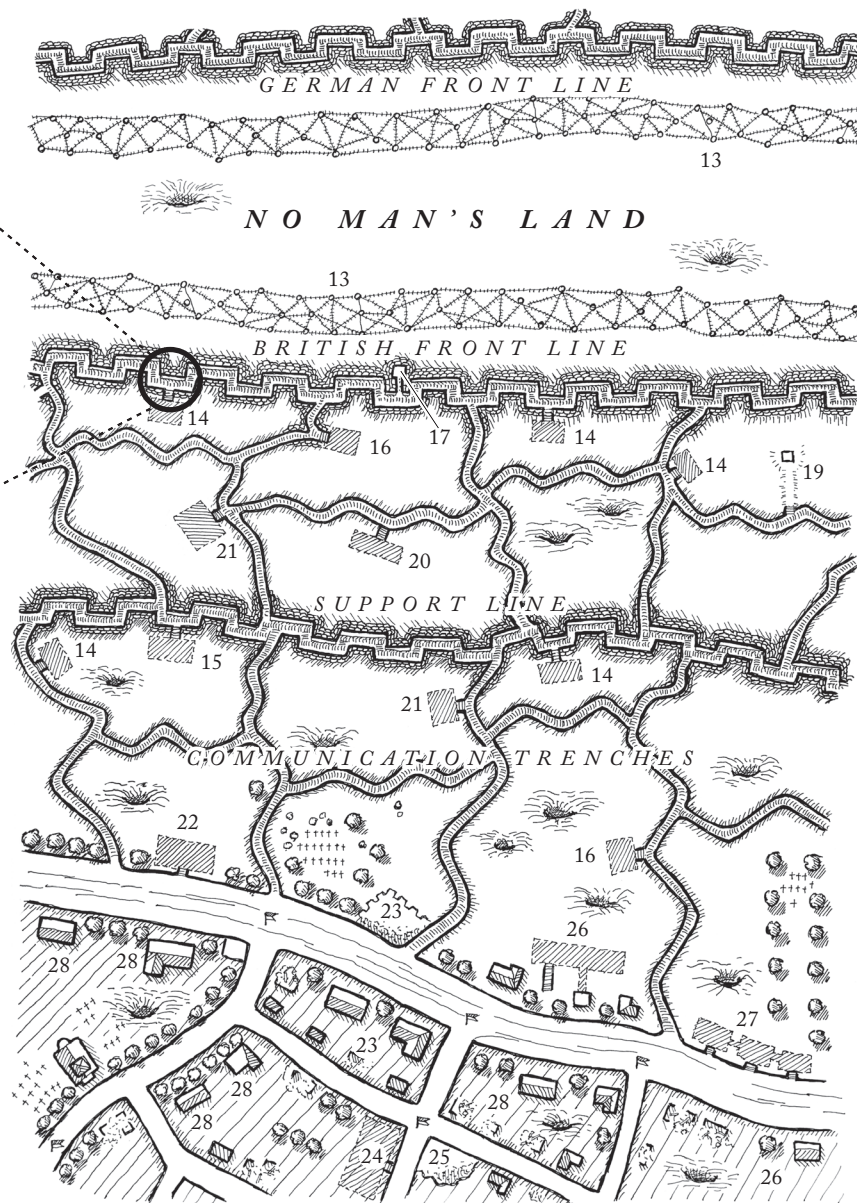


FIG 2

WEAPONS

10. British infantry weapons – illustrations not to scale

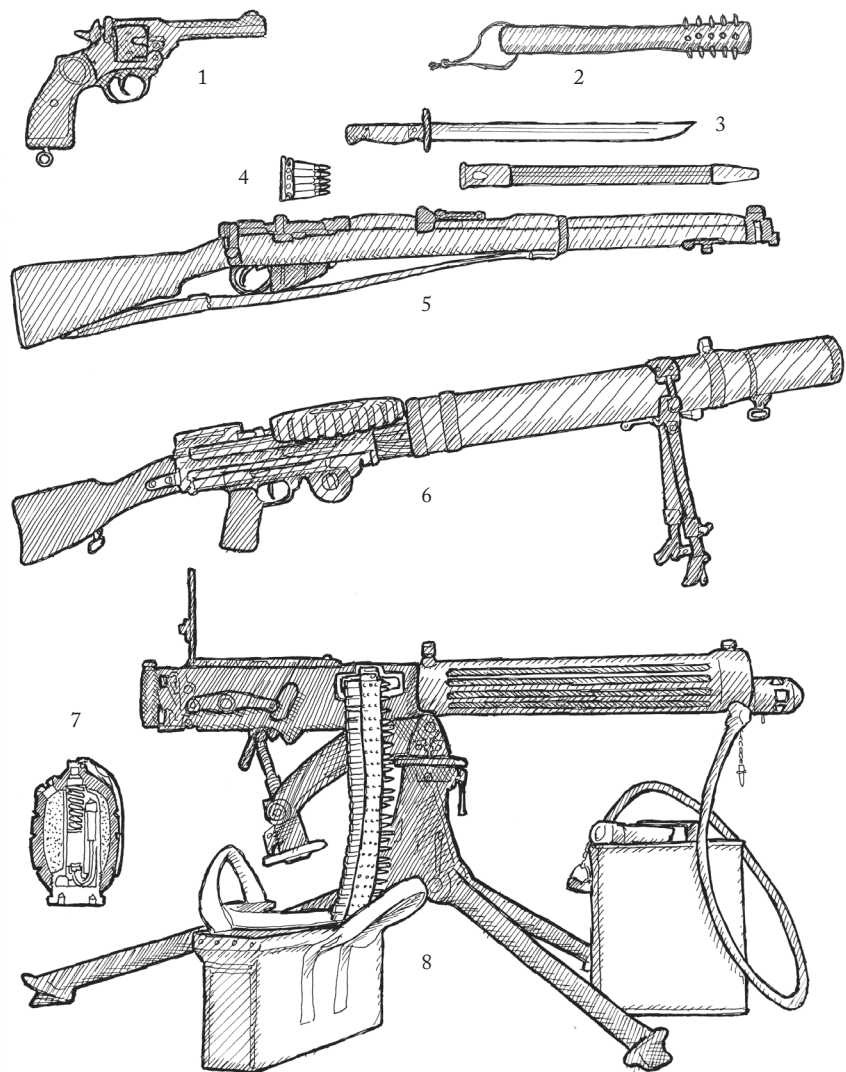


FIG 1

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Webley & Scott Mk VI
.455 Revolver | 5. Short Magazine Lee
Enfield .303 Rifle |
| 2. Mace with .303 bullets | 6. Lewis Gun .303 |
| 3. 1907 Bayonet and
Scabbard | 7. Mills Bomb (Grenade) |
| 4. Clip of 5 .303 rounds | 8. Vickers Mark I
.303 Machine gun |

ARTILLERY

11. British artillery and shells – illustrations not to scale

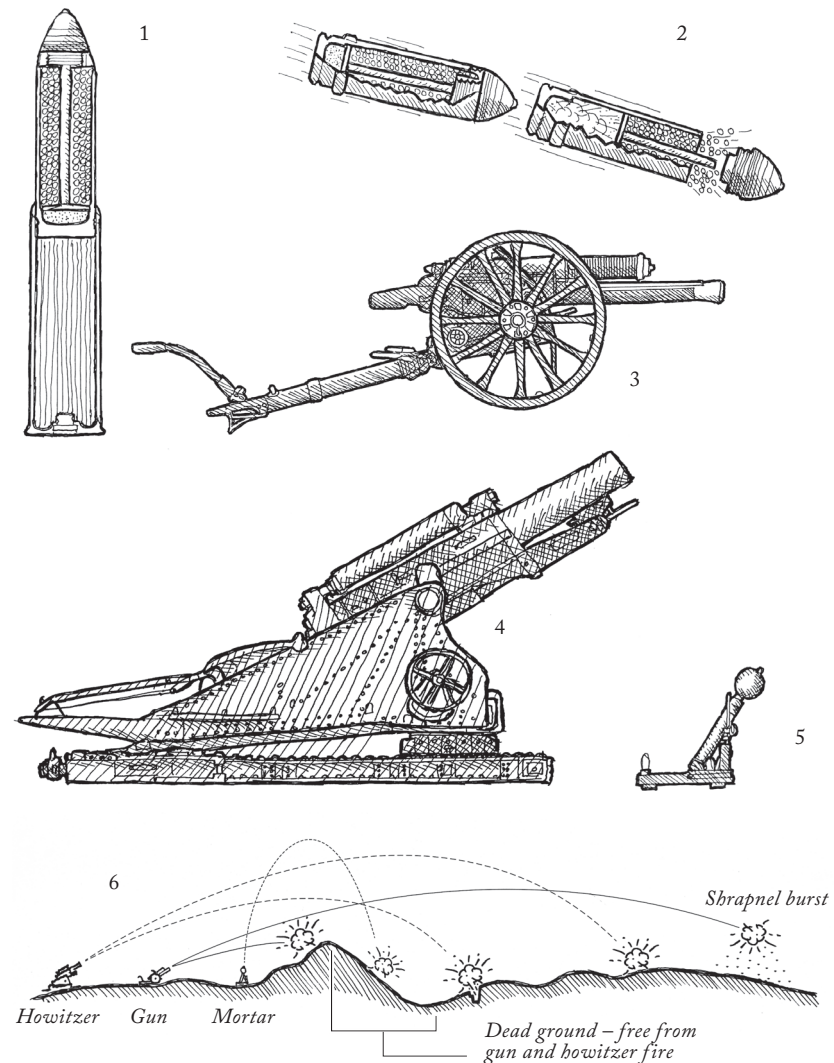


FIG 1

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 18-pounder Shrapnel Round | 4. Ordnance 9.2" Mark I
Howitzer, "Mother" |
| 2. 18-pounder Shrapnel Shell
(Before and after detonation) | 5. 2-inch Trench Mortar
with a Toffee Apple round |
| 3. Ordnance Quick Firing (QF)
18-pounder Gun | 6. Diagram showing mortar,
gun and howitzer trajectories |

DEVELOPMENT OF GAS WARFARE

12. From 23rd April 1915



FIG 1.

The first protection against chlorine gas was to urinate on one of your socks and hold that against your nose and mouth. It may have been smelly, but it would have saved your life!



FIG 2.

Following the first use of gas, new gas protection was hastily developed – The War Office Black Veiling Respirator was quickly replaced by basic eye protection and a cotton pad soaked in sodium hyposulphite, sodium carbonate and glycerine that was tied around the face.

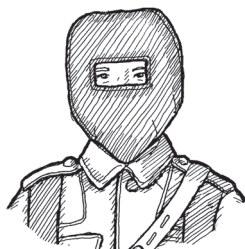


FIG 3.

The Hypo Helmet was first issued in June 1915. The helmet was soaked in sodium hyposulphite and its wearer given protection by the fact that the 'hypo' solution would counteract the gas drawn through the material by the process of breathing.



FIG 4.

The PH Helmet was not unlike the Hypo, except that stronger chemicals were added, as well as glass eye pieces, and a 'tube-valve'. The valve was for breathing out only in order to stop the glass from misting up and to save the chemicals from being effected by the wearer's breath.

DEVELOPMENT OF GAS WARFARE

To the end of the War

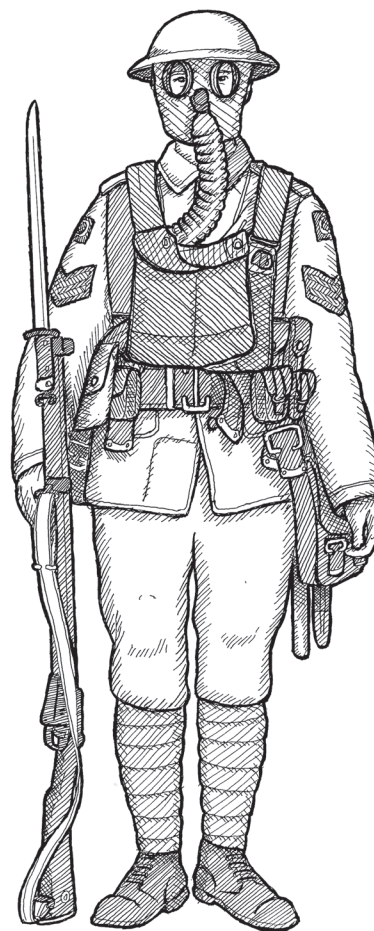
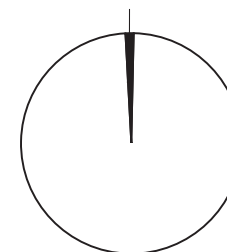


FIG 5

The Small Box Respirator (SBR) was introduced in 1916. The box, stored in a the haversack worn around the neck in the 'alert position' and connected to the facemask by a rubber hose, contained lime-permanganate granules between layers of charcoal.

It is generally considered that the first large-scale use of lethal gases on the Western Front was by the Germans during the 2nd Battle of Ypres on the 22nd of April 1915, when they deployed 15,730 cylinders containing 68 tons of chlorine gas against French troops north of Ypres. The Germans failed to exploit the gap in the line it created before the 1st Canadian Division and assorted French troops were able to reform it.

5,899 British Soldiers known to have died of gas = 4.3% of all those who were gassed

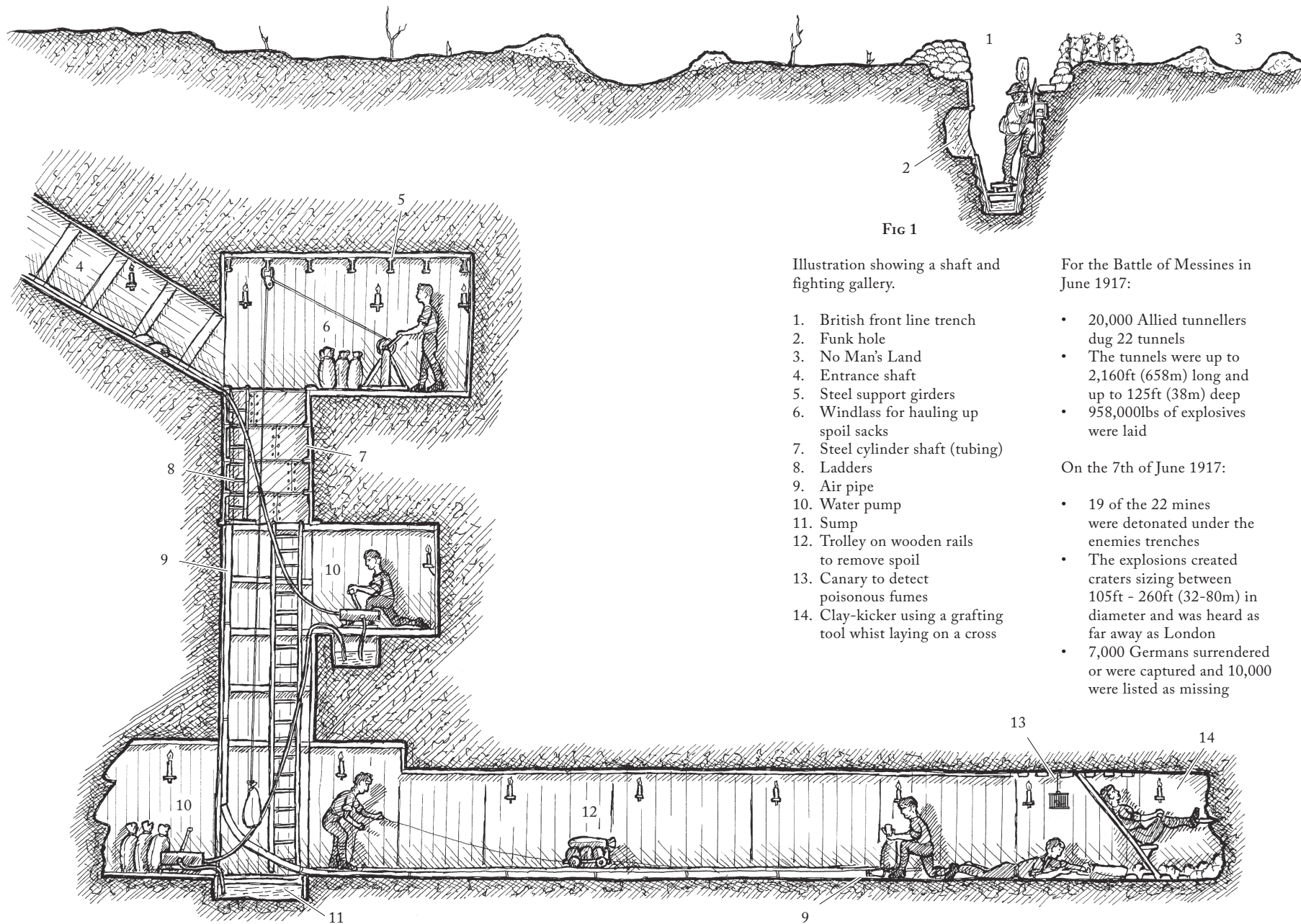


Total number of British Soldiers that died, 701,230

Gas was considered by Allied soldiers to be an inhumane weapon. It engendered hatred for the Germans which had not always been present before. This did not stop the Allies from using gas in retaliation, not always successfully. It continued to be used by both sides throughout the war. The main types of gas used were chlorine, phosgene and mustard gas.

TUNNELLING AND MINES

13. Warfare underground



TUNNELLING AND MINES

Tunnelling and mine statistics

FIG 1

Illustration showing a shaft and fighting gallery.

1. British front line trench
2. Funk hole
3. No Man's Land
4. Entrance shaft
5. Steel support girders
6. Windlass for hauling up spoil sacks
7. Steel cylinder shaft (tubing)
8. Ladders
9. Air pipe
10. Water pump
11. Sump
12. Trolley on wooden rails to remove spoil
13. Canary to detect poisonous fumes
14. Clay-kicker using a grafting tool whist laying on a cross

For the Battle of Messines in June 1917:

- 20,000 Allied tunnellers dug 22 tunnels
- The tunnels were up to 2,160ft (658m) long and up to 125ft (38m) deep
- 958,000lbs of explosives were laid

On the 7th of June 1917:

- 19 of the 22 mines were detonated under the enemies trenches
- The explosions created craters sizing between 105ft - 260ft (32-80m) in diameter and was heard as far away as London
- 7,000 Germans surrendered or were captured and 10,000 were listed as missing

TANKS

14. The development of the Tank

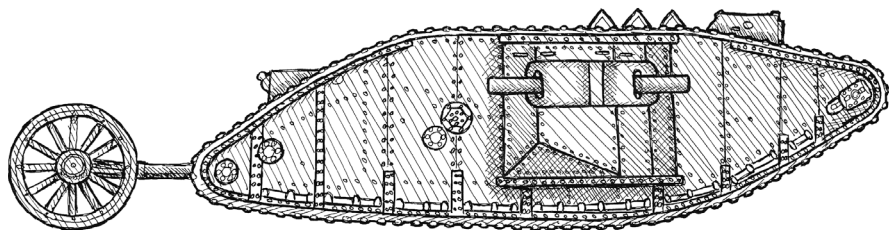


FIG 1

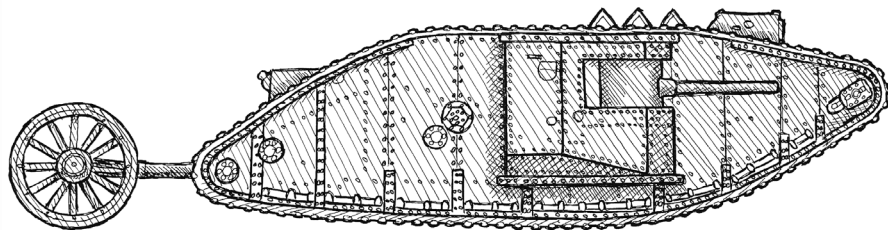
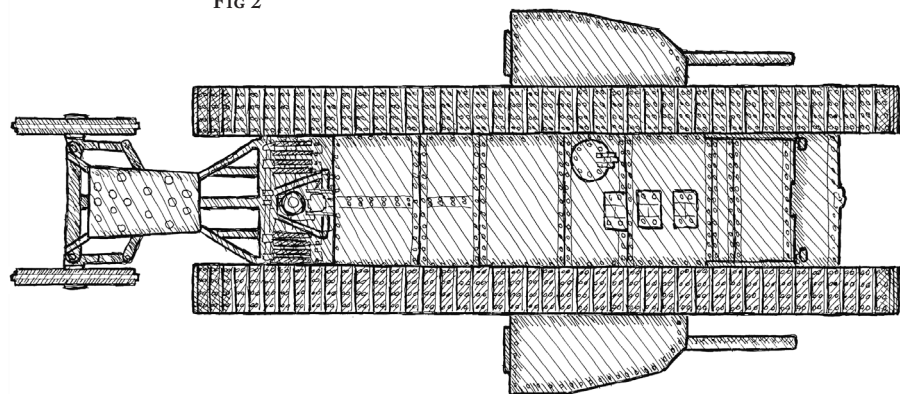
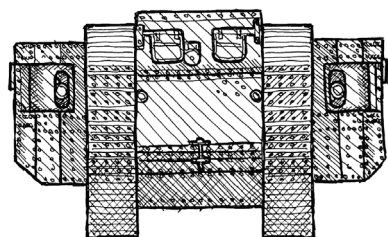
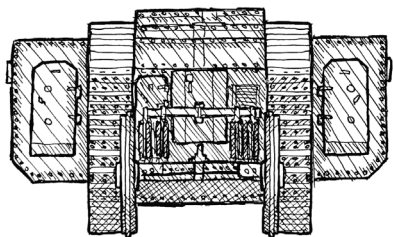


FIG 2



Rear

Front



TANKS

Illustrations not to scale

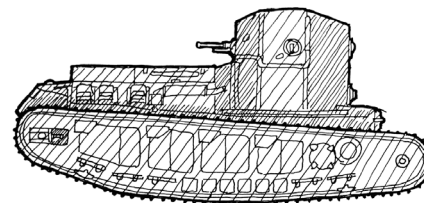


FIG 3

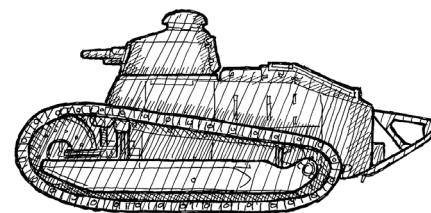


FIG 4

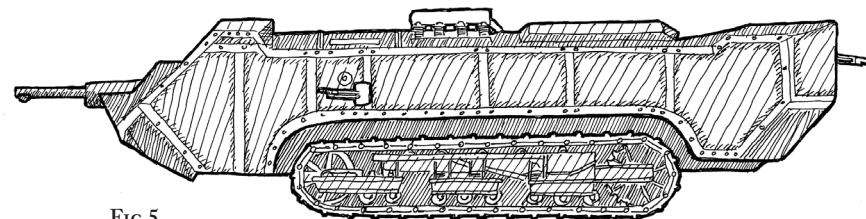


FIG 5

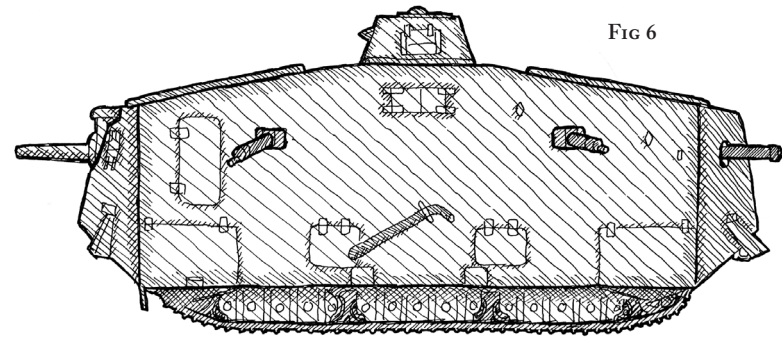


FIG 6

Owing to its appearance the term 'tank' was first used in 1915 as a code name to hide the true purpose of the machine. The terms 'cistern' and 'reservoir' were also suggested as possible cover names but 'tank' was decided upon as it was less clumsy (source "Tanks in the Great War" [1920], Brevet Col. J.F.C. Fuller).

1. British Mk I Tank Female, 1916
2. British Mk I Tank Male, 1916
3. British Medium Tank Mk A Whippet, 1917
4. French FT-17, 1918
5. French Char d'Assault St Chamond, 1917
6. German A7V Sturmpanzerwagen, 1918

MEDICAL

15 Stages of Medical Treatment

1. Personal kit

Each soldier carried a basic first aid kit, often containing little more than a feld dressing and iodine.

2. Aid Posts

Situated within the trenches, Regimental Aid Posts (RAP) were the first place where wounded would get any kind of professional medical treatment.

3. Advanced Dressing Station

An ADS would be staffed by doctors and orderlies who would conduct triage and urgent life saving surgery. Those who survived were evacuated to the next stage.

4. Casualty Clearing Station

Generally located near a railway, to ease the movement of casualties from the battlefield and on to the hospitals. At a CCS wounded men would receive the treatment necessary to save their lives prior to a return to duty, or more commonly to enable them to be evacuated to a Base Hospital.

5. Base Hospital

Situated close to the English Channel and ideally near a port from where men who could not be returned to the front were evacuated to Britain.

6. Evacuation to 'Blighty'

Invalids, and those needing convalescence, would be evacuated to hospital in Britain – major centres were in Southampton and Scotland.

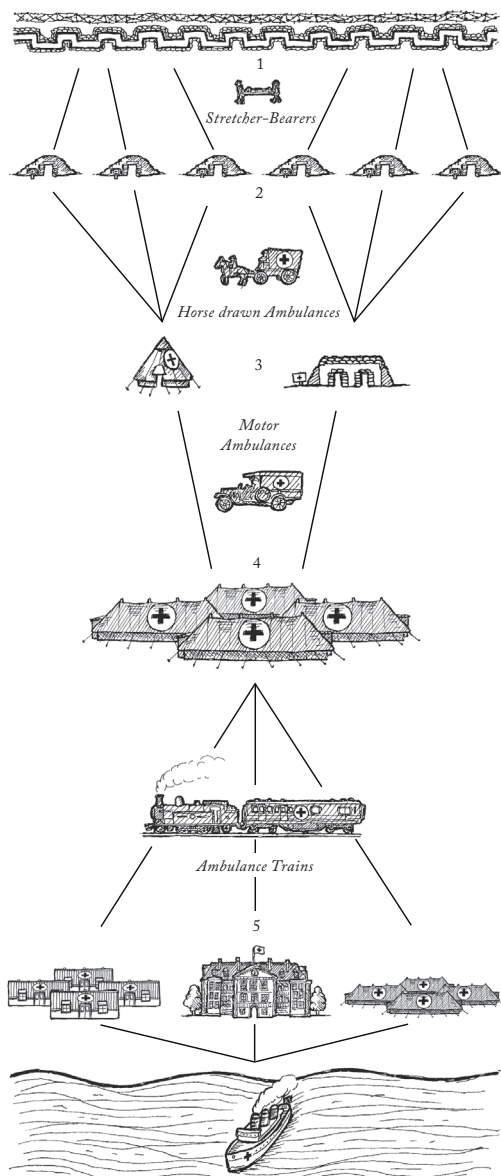


FIG 1

MEDICAL

Casualty statistics

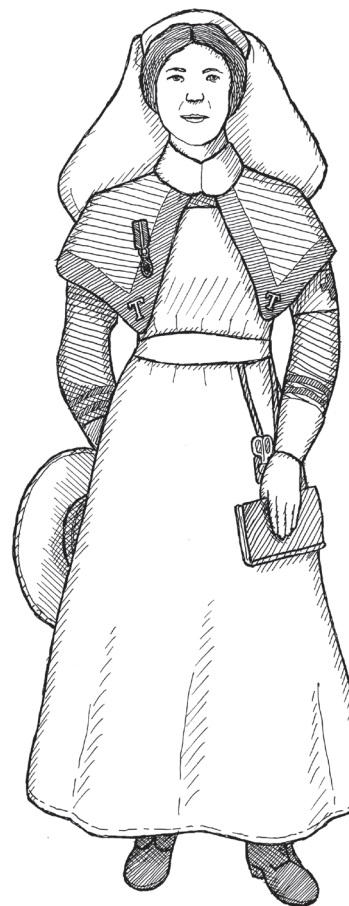


FIG 2.

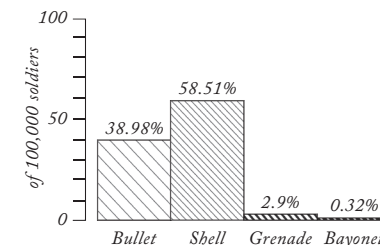
Nursing staff came from many organisations, such as the Territorial Force Nursing Service (TFNS) pictured above, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS), Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) and the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY).

Casualties

Casualties were regarded as anyone who did not make roll call the next morning because they were either dead, wounded, sick, or had been taken prisoner of war. Those who were missing were just marked down as being absent.

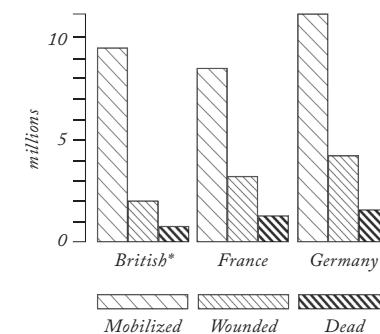
Casualties analysis

Analysis revise to read 'Analysis of the causes of the 212,659 wounds seen through one typical Casualty Clearing Station throughout the Great War.'



Overall mobilization and losses

Although British losses were high, in fact only approximately 1 in 10 actually died'.



* All British and Commonwealth forces.

Figures are based upon War Office statistics and do not include civilian deaths.

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

16. Remembrance



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) was established by the Royal Charter of 21 May 1917. Its establishment was in large part due to the efforts of Fabian Ware, a former educator and newspaper editor. Unable to join the the army because of his age, he went to France with the Red Cross. Instrumental in forming the Graves Registration Unit in the Army, he was twice Mentioned in Despatches during the war for his work with that body, and ended the war as a Major General.

The CWGC works to ensure that 1.7 million people who died in the two world wars will never be forgotten. They care for cemeteries and memorials at 23,000 locations, in 153 countries and commemorate the war dead, from building and maintaining cemeteries and memorials to preserving the records of the fallen.

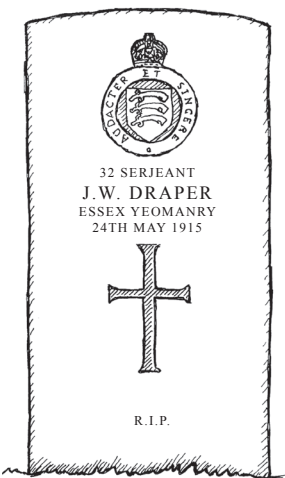


FIG 1.

Headstone

- Cap Badge
- Army Number and Rank
- Name
- Regiment
- Date of Death and Age
- Religious Symbol
- Family message, (Up to 66 characters including spaces).

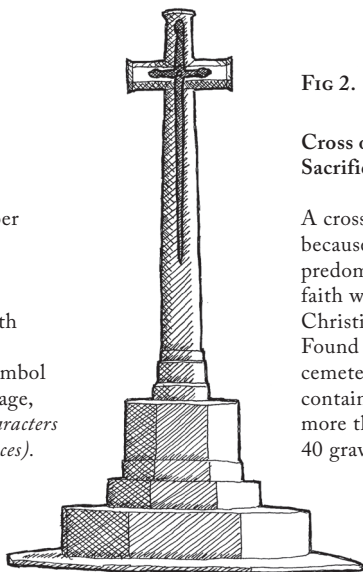


FIG 2.

Cross of Sacrifice

A cross because the predominant faith was Christianity. Found within cemeteries containing more than 40 graves.

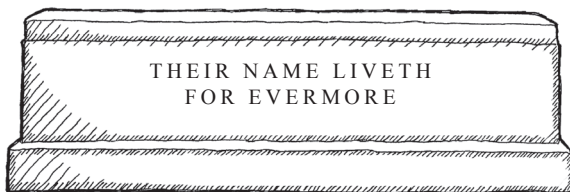


FIG 3.

Stone of Remembrance

For all faiths and none. Found within cemeteries containing more than 400 graves.

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

Headstones and Memorials

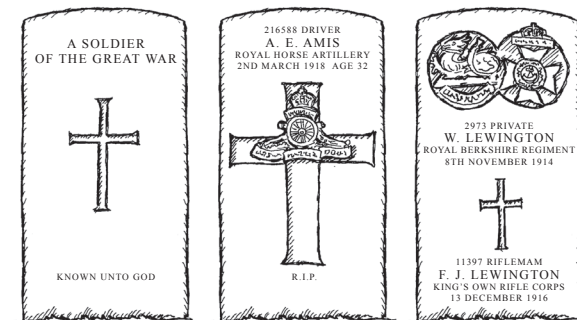


FIG 4.

The Commission's work is guided by fundamental principles which were established in 1920:

- that each of the dead should be commemorated individually by name either on the headstone on the grave or by an inscription on a memorial to the missing;
- that the headstones and memorials should be permanent;
- that the headstones should be uniform;
- that no distinction should be made on account of military or civil rank, race or creed.

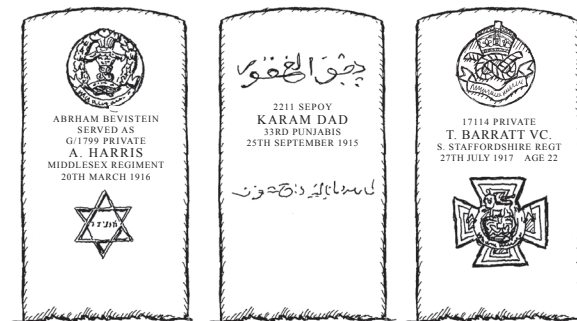
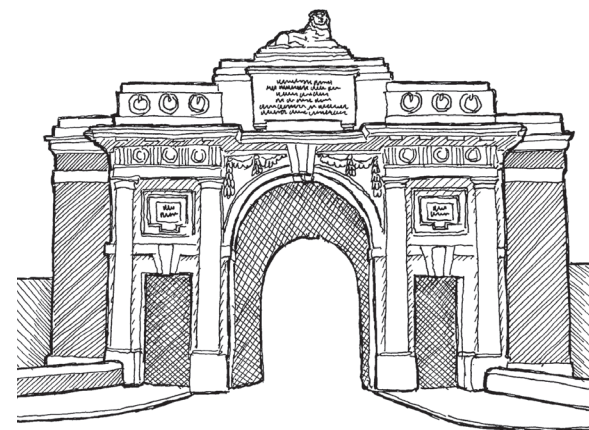


FIG 5.

The Menin Gate Memorial Ypres, Belgium



Soldiers with no known grave are commemorated on memorials like the Menin Gate in Ypres, which bears the names of more than 54,405 officers and men who died in the Ypres Salient up until the Battle of Langemarck in 1917. The Tyne Cot Memorial bears the names of 34,948 and Thiepval Memorial on the Somme a further 72,195 of those who have known grave.

ANCILLARY

17. Medals, Decorations and War Badge

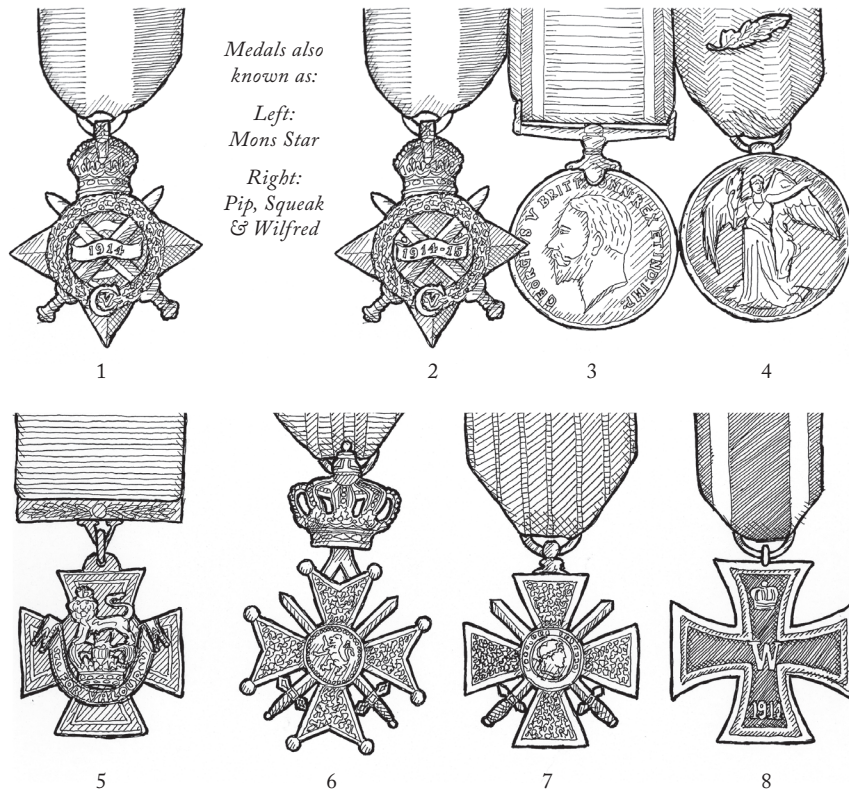


FIG 1.

Campaign Medals – British Empire

1. The 1914 Star
2. The 1914-15 Star
3. The British War Medal
4. The Allied Victory Medal

Military Decorations

5. Victoria Cross – British Empire
6. Croix de guerre – Belgium
7. Croix de guerre – France
8. Iron Cross – Germany



FIG 2.

The Silver War Badge – British Empire

The badge was originally issued to officers and men who were discharged or retired from the military forces as a result of sickness or injury caused by their war service. The badge was made of Sterling silver and was intended to be worn on the right breast of a recipient's civilian clothing. It could not be worn on a military uniform.

SAFETY

18. Safety notes for the battlefield visitor

INTRODUCTION

Safety is of paramount importance. Both your guide and your group leaders have this as their priority. However, you must play your part in ensuring safety and that of the group. You must behave in a safe and responsible manner and remain conscious of what is going on around you throughout the tour.

UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

It is unlikely but you may come across unfired small arms ammunition during your tour, along with unexploded ordnance ranging from hand grenades to 15-inch naval shells. Most of these have the potential to explode if tampered with.

The rules are:

- Do not touch
- Alert the guide or a member of your staff
- Taking “artefacts” from the battlefield is illegal in France and Belgium
- “Souvenirs” in the form of ammunition, even deactivated, are not to be purchased
- Those found in possession of ammunition of any type are liable to arrest by the French or British police at the Channel Tunnel or ports.

RUSTY METAL

Even apparently innocuous items such as rusty barbed wire or pickets can pose a real risk of Tetanus or Rabies. Again, avoid them.

ROAD SAFETY

- Be aware that UK coaches exit into the middle of continental roads
- Seat belts must be worn when aboard the coach
- Take care in towns and villages. Continental drivers drive on the right.

SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

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Co-written and edited by Ian Coyne and Sean Cripps.*

Sources for statistical data:

*British Army Structure and Ranks, pages 5 & 6: British Library website, bl.uk
Also pages 6-9: 1914 Field Service Pocket Book*

*British and Commonwealth deaths, page 2: The Great War Handbook by Geoff Bridger
Gas, page 19: ibid, Mining, page 21: ibid, Medical, page 25: ibid
Mining, page 21: BBC website, bbc.co.uk*

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