



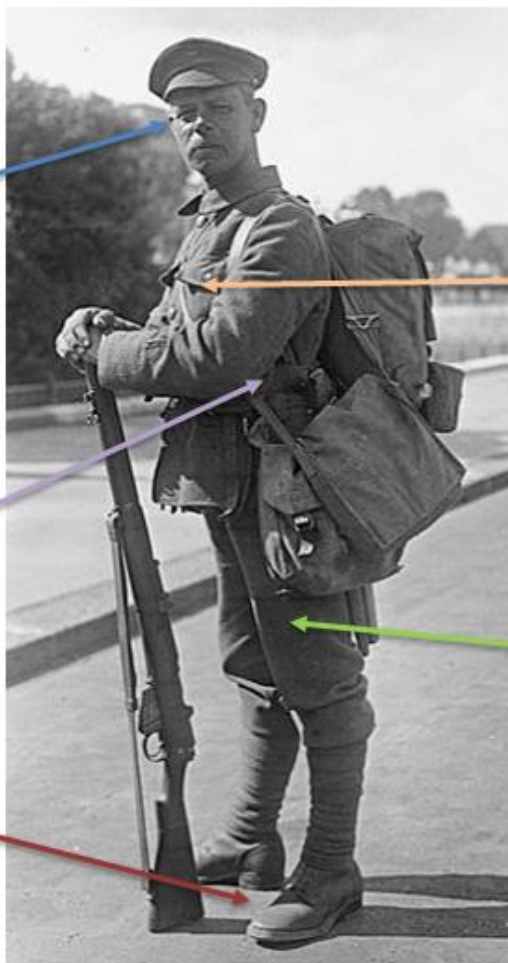
FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY BATTLEFIELD TOURS PROGRAMME



The British Army went to war wearing soft caps and there were a lot of head injuries. As a result, steel helmets were introduced in late 1915. Interestingly, this led to an increase in the number of head injuries (16% of all wounds) because more men survived their head wounds because they were now wearing a helmet!

Lice affected all soldiers in the trenches. They lived in the seams of the men's clothes and were almost impossible to remove. As well as being irritating, they could also cause trench fever, which had flu-like symptoms.

Trench foot was a very real problem especially over the winter of 1914-15. Standing in cold mud and water in tight army boots caused the foot to swell. The skin also began to shrivel and in the worst cases, to rot and to die!



Less than 12% of all wounds were to the chest, stomach or back. This is because most soldiers who were wounded in this area died before reaching medical care. For those who did make it, special Casualty Clearing Stations were set up close to the front to deal with these dangerous wounds.

Wounds to the arms and legs were the most common injuries, making up 67% of all wounds. These were caused by exploding shells, although these were often recorded as 'G.S.W.' – gun shot wounds on a soldier's papers. The wounds were a result of shrapnel or shell fragments and in the worst cases would lead to amputation.