



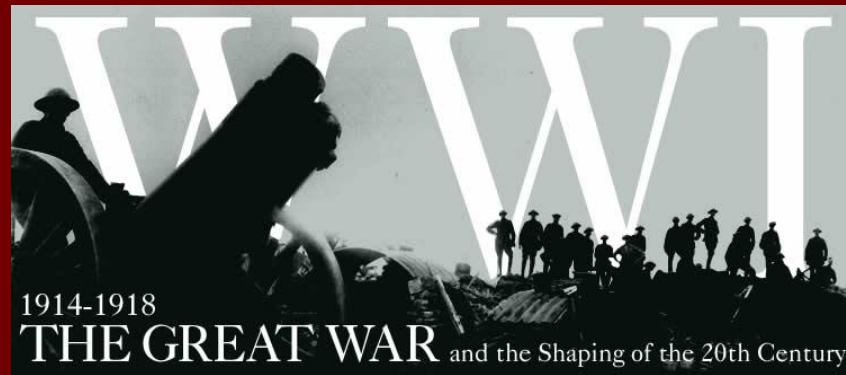
**THE GREAT WAR**

**1914 - 1918**

Better known to you as ... WWI!

# Causes...

- There were many different causes for WWI.
- You will learn about 4 major causes:
  - Militarism
  - Alliances
  - Imperialism
  - Nationalism





# World War I

## The Great War

### Cause #1: Nationalism

The belief that national interests and national unity should be placed ahead of global cooperation and that a nation's foreign affairs should be guided by its own self interest. **Basically a nation feels it is better than other countries.**

# So...

- How could Nationalism have lead to WWI aka The Great War?



# Cause # 2: Alliances

An **Alliance System**: is another way of saying, “My friends and I are stronger than you and your friends”.

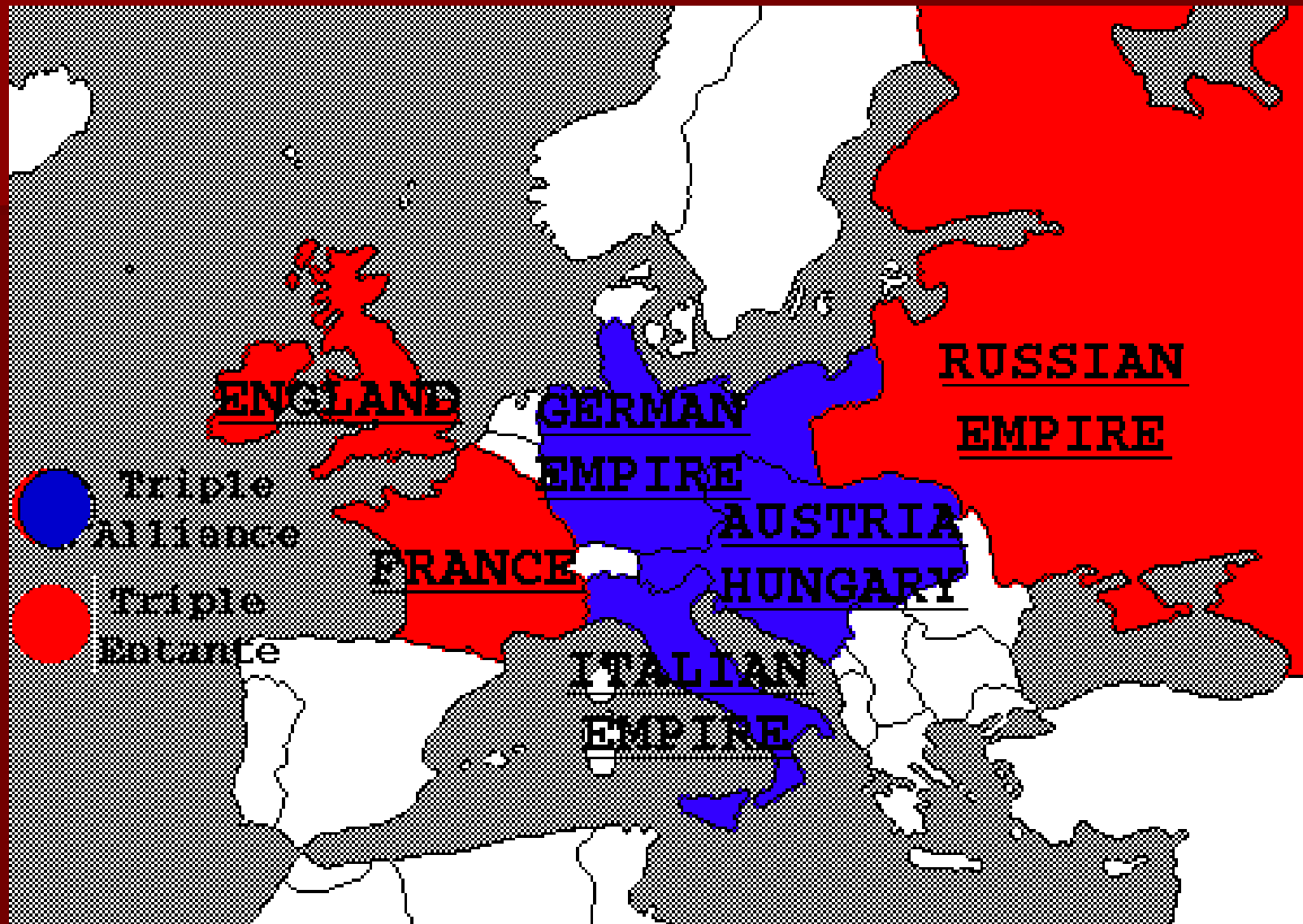
The third cause of WWI were the alliances that were formed.

The Central powers: Germany, Austria-Hungary,  
and the Ottoman Empire

Allied Powers: Britain, France, and Russia. Italy  
also joined after 1915.

Why do you think the alliances listed above created problems?





ENGLAND

GERMAN  
EMPIRE

RUSSIAN  
EMPIRE

Triple  
Alliance

FRANCE

AUSTRIA  
HUNGARY

Triple  
Entente

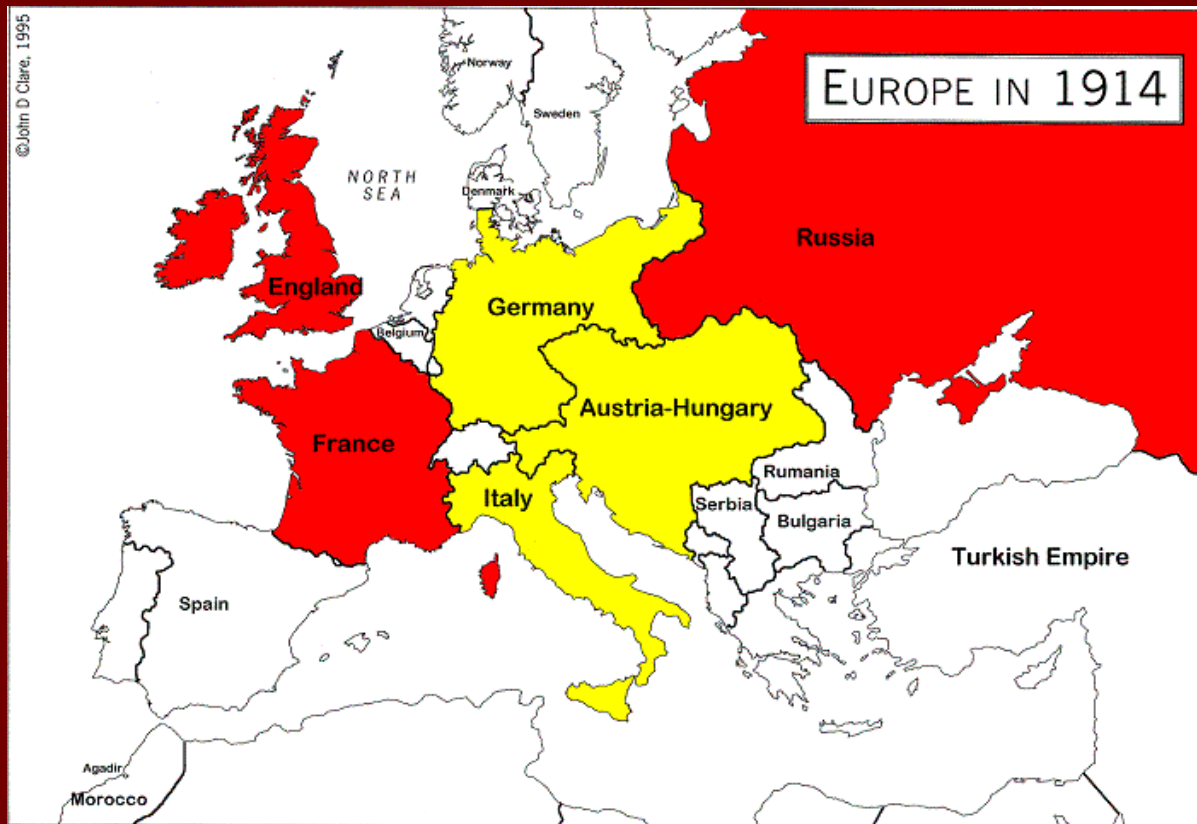
ITALIAN  
EMPIRE





# What if...

- Alliances had never been formed before or during WWI? What things in history might have changed?



# Back to Nationalism...

- Why would ethnic minorities want to create their own governments?
- If you think hard I believe you know the answer to #4 on your worksheet!

- Your textbook (hopefully you opened it last night to complete the worksheet you have out in front of you 😊) says that the threat of **socialist revolutions** might have lead to WWI. Why might **conservative capitalistic leaders** have been afraid of this possibility?
  - What are some of the answers that you came up with?

# How Alliances Work...



- If you are a member of an alliance, you must follow your treaties. So, if a member of your alliance goes to war, you go too. Everyone gets dragged in, even if they do not believe in the cause. Total war begins... (Total War- is a military conflict in which nations mobilize all available resources in order to destroy another nation's ability to engage in war.)

# Conscription

- Your book talks about “Conscription” in the U.S. we have a different term for Conscription. What is it and how can it be controversial?



# Cause # 3: MILITARISM

## Militarism and the term Arms Race go hand in hand...

The division between alliances led to an arms race—who could make the most weapons. If you are a country trying to make the most weapons you are in a period of Militarism belief.

Acknowledging that Germany was the leader in military organization and efficiency, the great powers of Europe copied their large reserves of weaponry and detailed planning.



# WWI Militarism...

- The standing armies of France and Germany doubled in size between 1870 and 1914.
- Naval expansion was also extremely competitive, particularly between Germany and Great Britain. By 1889, the British had established the principle that in order to maintain naval superiority in the event of war they would have to have a navy two and a half times as large as the second-largest navy.
- This motivated the British to launch the Dreadnought, invented by Admiral Sir John Fisher, in 1906. The Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905 had demonstrated how effective these battleships were. As Britain increased their output of battleships, Germany correspondingly stepped up their naval production, including the Dreadnought. Although efforts for worldwide disarmament were made at the Hague Conferences of 1899 and 1907, international rivalry caused the arms race to continue to feed on itself.

# Weapons in WWI

- New weapons were created during the Great War



Grenades



Machine  
Guns



Poison  
Gas



Tanks



Trench  
Mortar



# What was going on with Serbia?

- Why was Serbia angry before WWI and what did it have to do with Austria-Hungary?
- Who supported Serbia at this time?
- This all lead to...

# Assassination in Sarajevo

Europe had reached its breaking point when on **June 28, 1914**, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austria-Hungarian throne, was assassinated in Sarajevo, Bosnia, by a Serbian nationalist.

-The event was seen as the spark that started WWI

-On July 1914 Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

-Since Russia was an ally with Serbia they went to war as well

-Germany being an ally of Austria-Hungary declared war on Russia



-World War I had begun



# July 28, 1914

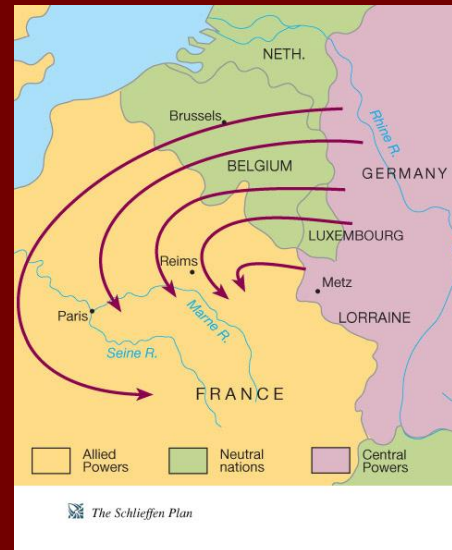


## Falling Dominoes

- Because of the Assassination of FF, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on July 28, 1914
- On July 29, Russia ordered a partial mobilization only against Austria-Hungary in support of Serbia, which escalated into a general mobilization.
- The Germans threatened war on July 31 if the Russians did not demobilize.
- Upon being asked by Germany what it would do in the event of a Russo-German War, France responded that it would act in its own interests and mobilized.
- On August 1, Germany declared war on Russia, and two days later, on France.
- The German invasion of Belgium to attack France, which violated Belgium's official neutrality, prompted Britain to declare war on Germany.
- The Great War had begun

# Germany

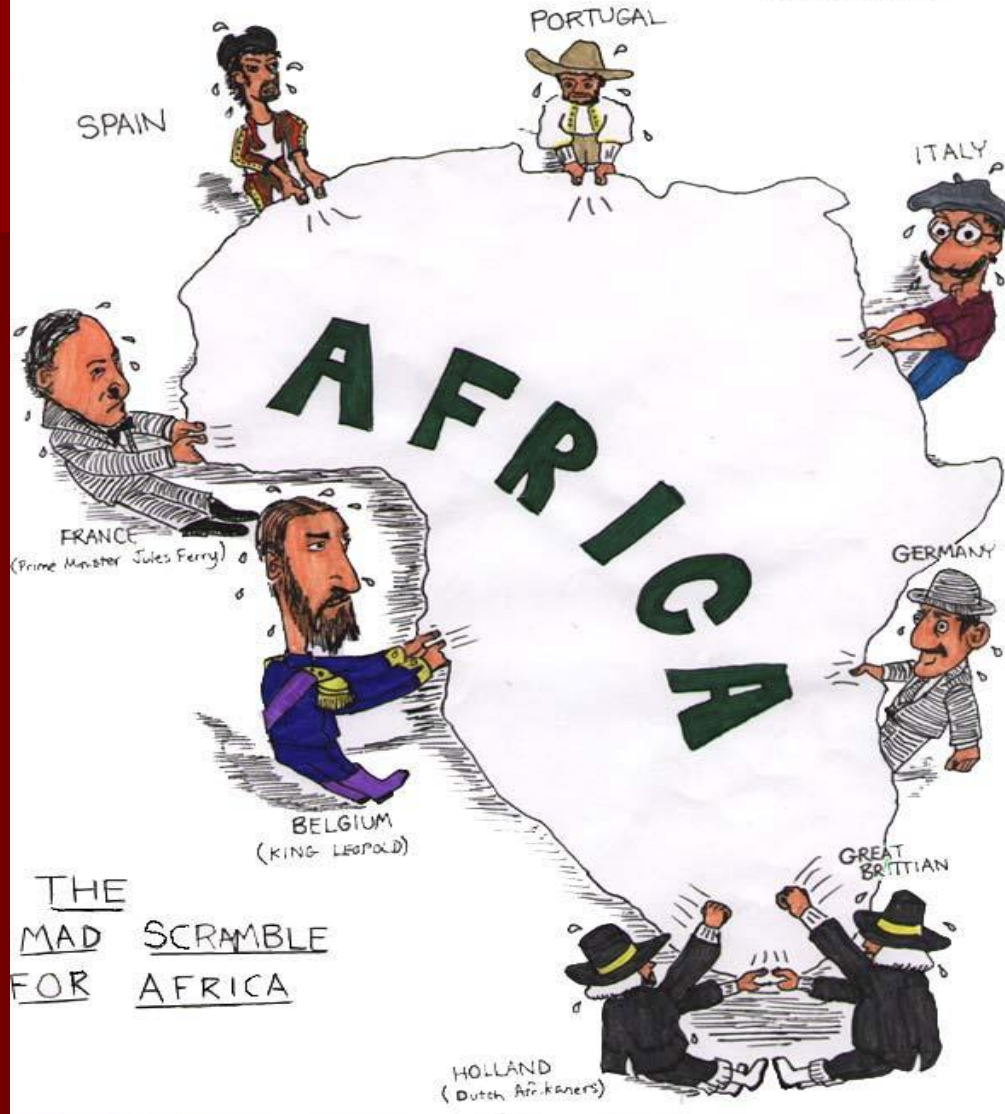
- What was the Schlieffen Plan?
- What did the Schlieffen Plan depend upon?
- Do you think this part of it will succeed?



# Cause # 4 : Imperialism

- Another factor which contributed to the increase in rivalry in Europe was imperialism.
- Great Britain, Germany and France needed foreign markets after the increase in manufacturing caused by the Industrial Revolution.
- These countries competed for economic expansion in Africa.
- Although Britain and France resolved their differences in Africa, several crises foreshadowing the war involved the clash of Germany against Britain and France in North Africa.

DAVID BAINBRIDGE





# The war begins

- After the war began different methods were used to fight such as trench warfare.



How did Trench Warfare come about?

## How did Trench Warfare come about?

- The human tragedy of the Great War of 1914-18 is beyond comprehension. Great Britain and her Empire lost over 1,000,000 combatants; France, 1,300,000; Russia, 1,700,000; Germany and its allies, 3,500,000. Losses in life per day of the war exceeded 5,500.
- One cause of this immense loss of life is that the countries involved didn't realize the destructive power of the weapons developed since the last European war almost 50 years earlier.
- By 1915 the bolt action .303 Lee Enfield Rifle with a range of nearly a mile could fire 25 rounds a minute. Even more devastating was the Vickers Machine Gun which fired 600 rounds a minute. The howitzer could fire shells eight miles.
- Add Grenades, flame throwers and (eventually) gas and it is no surprise that by the end of 1914 both sides had dug into the earth like moles in a desperate attempt to stay alive.



Aircraft can warn of the build-up of enemy troops before an attack



Concrete block house for a machine-gun

Long-range artillery is placed about 10 km behind the front line. These guns fire at advancing enemy troops

Barbed wire: metres deep and an impassable obstacle for any troops able to reach it

Front-line trench

Support trench

Reserve trench

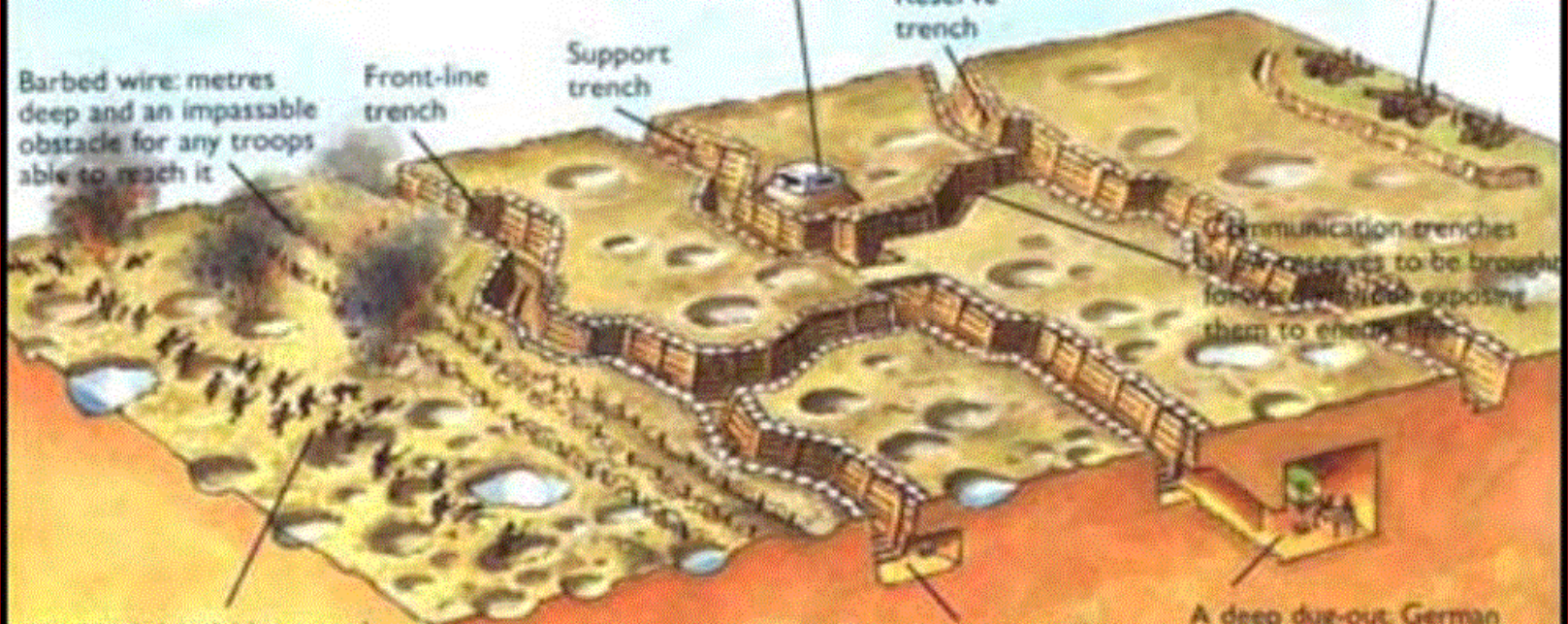
Communication trenches allow reserves to be brought forward without exposing them to enemy fire

No Man's Land (the stretch of land between the trenches of the opposing sides) has already been churned up by shell fire. In wet weather it becomes a mass of mud, making it even harder for troops to cross

Front-line dug-outs provide protection but not against a direct hit from an artillery shell

A deep dug-out: German ones could be 15 m below ground and too well constructed to be damaged by shell fire

## PROBLEMS FACING ATTACKING TROOPS



## Everyday conditions

**Routine:** Troops usually spent 8 days in the front line, followed by four in reserve. This varied and there were instances where soldiers were forced to spend over sixty days in the line without a break.

**Boredom:** was the defining experience of trench life. During the day soldiers would sit around and doze. At night they repaired trenches, laid wire and carried stores, or went on patrols in **no-man's land**. This was dangerous in the extreme – the slightest noise, or being revealed by a flare, would attract a hail of machine-gun fire.

**Lack of food:** was another key feature. Bully beef and biscuits (so hard that they would have to be smashed with a stone) were the staple food, supplemented from packages sent from friends and relatives at home.

# Life in the trenches...



**Planks called duckboards were put down, but these were often inadequate. Many men suffered from frostbite or trenchfoot (above) due to the constant exposure to mud and water – the feet swell up to 3 times their normal size, go gangrenous (i.e. rot) and had to be amputated.**







**Rats**: It was often difficult to remove the dead and this led to large colonies of rats emerging. They fed on corpses and rations.

**Lice** : Almost all of the soldiers suffered from lice. They spread diseases like dysentery and typhoid. Many soldiers whiled away the hours burning the lice out of the seams of their clothes with a match, but they never left.

*"One night, as we lay in bed after doing our two hours' sentry - we did two hours on and two hours off - my friend Jock said 'damn this, I cannot stand it any longer!' He took off his shirt and put it in the middle of the dug-out floor...As we sat up in bed watching the shirt he had taken off and put it on the floor it actually lifted; it was swarming with lice".*

**(Henry Gregory)**



## What were conditions like during attacks?

1. **Artillery:** The enemy would start by trying to "soften up" the lines with massive artillery fire, designed to kill soldiers, destroy trenches and shatter the barbed wire. The noise was deafening – audible in London!
2. **Gas:** First used at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres by the Germans; chlorine was initially used and then phosgene. Very dangerous as it could blow back on your own side. Caused the lungs to slowly dissolve, and the patient would drown in his own fluids. Horrific. Many soldiers covered their mouths with a rag that had been soaked in urine.
3. **Over the top:** Soldiers would fix bayonets and wait for the whistle from their officer, aware that minutes later they stood a good chance of being killed or maimed for life. At the whistle, they would climb over the trenches and advance into no-man's land facing a hail of machine gun fire and shells. Almost all such attacks were abject failures, with mass slaughter being the result.

*You were between the devil and the deep blue sea. If you go forward, you`ll likely be shot, if you go back you`ll be court-martialled and shot, so what the hell do you do? What can you do? You just go forward because that`s the only bloke you can take your knife in, that`s the bloke you are facing.*



